

Soviets file charges against Daniloff

MOSCOW (AP) — American reporter Nicholas Daniloff was charged with espionage on Sunday in a legal proceeding at Lefortovo prison, said Jeff Trimble, a correspondent for Daniloff's magazine, U.S. News and World Report. Word of the formal charges filed against Daniloff, 52, came shortly after Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told the programme "Face the Nation" on the U.S. CBS broadcasting network that a trial would be held. Daniloff told Trimble, in a 20-minute phone call from the prison Sunday night, that he was formally charged at 2 p.m., but that he had no indication yet when he would be put on trial. Trimble said Daniloff was told the investigation into his case could take up to six months, and that KGB agents could extend their probe an additional three months if extraordinary circumstances could be shown.

See related story on page 8

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي.

OIC countries to review cooperation

ISTANBUL (R) — Ministers and experts of six Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) members will review progress in economic cooperation at a three-day meeting starting here on Monday. Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Guinea, the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Jordan will attend the second meeting of a follow-up committee of the OIC standing committee on economic and commercial cooperation. Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem told a news conference on Sunday the meeting will review long-standing plans to set up a medium-term foreign trade financing mechanism between Islamic countries. "I can say the final stage has been reached for the mechanism to be operative," Mr. Erdem said. Turkish officials said the Islamic Development Bank has completed a legal framework for the project and when at least 10 countries join it will start operating.

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Regent sends good wishes to Brazil

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday sent a cable of good wishes to Brazilian President Jose Sarney congratulating him on the occasion of his country's Independence Day. The Crown Prince wished President Sarney continuing good health and the Brazilian people further progress and prosperity.

Jordan gets KD 5.6m loan

KUWAIT (Petra) — Jordan is to get 5.6 million Kuwaiti dinars from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) under an agreement signed in Kuwait on Sunday. The loan is to be used to finance the construction of a road linking the north with the south of the country. The Zar-Ghor-Haditha road will improve the Kingdom's road network and join regions in the North Jordan Valley with those in the south and will reduce the cost of transporting agricultural products. The agreement was signed by Jordan's Ambassador to Kuwait Wael Toukan and AFESD Board of Directors President Abdul Latif Al Hamad.

Municipality reviews road problems

AMMAN (Petra) — Problems which Amman residents complain of during the winter season and condition of roads were discussed at a meeting by the Amman Municipal Council chaired by Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh. The meeting discussed chronic problems plaguing a number of districts during winter and feasible solutions. Mr. Rawabdeh urged engineers and officials to speed up the implementation of public services projects as soon as possible and to organise campaigns for cleaning culverts, streams and wadis to facilitate the flow of rain water in all districts.

Sudan to get \$3b Saudi loan

KHARTOUM (AP) — An agreement under which Saudi Arabia will provide Sudan with a \$3 billion facility over the next three years will be signed soon in the Saudi Kingdom, a newspaper said Sunday. The daily Sudan Times reported that Finance Minister Bashir Omar would depart for Saudi Arabia next week to finalise the agreement.

Britain willing to join EC sanctions

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Sunday reaffirmed Britain's willingness to impose economic sanctions against South Africa if these are agreed by the European Community (EC). He said the 12-nation community would decide in eight days whether finally to go ahead with long-awaited economic sanctions against South Africa. Speaking at a news conference after chairing an informal meeting of community foreign ministers at Brooklet Hall, a country house north of London, Mr. Howe said the private talks were not the right forum for taking such a decision.

Jordan launches national campaign to help Iraqi war effort

Committee calls for generous donations

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Sunday announced the launching of a national campaign to raise funds to help Iraq's war effort and appealed to the citizens, banks and other official and unofficial organisations and institutions in the Kingdom to donate generously to help the Iraqis repel Iranian aggression.

The announcement was made by the National Committee for Supporting Iraq. The committee was set up by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai to rally support and secure assistance for Iraq in the six-year-old war with Iran.

The announcement said the campaign to raise funds was to start Monday, the first day of school after vacation for students for the 1986-1987 scholastic year, so that schoolchildren could participate in the fund-raising efforts.

The Gulf conflict is a devastating war which is not in the interest of any of the two sides and is aimed at imposing foreign

domination on parts of our dear homeland and endangering our security and stability," the announcement said following a committee meeting in Amman.

The announcement said that "the Gulf war threatens to ruin the economies of the Arab and Islamic nations and destroy links between them leaving behind hatred and destruction."

The statement recalled that Iraq, "since the beginning of the war, had been expressing its desire for peaceful negotiations and the return of each side to the international borders and the establishment of good neighbourly relations that could

guarantee each party's rights." "It should also be noted that Iraq has consistently responded favourably to peace bids offered by various nations and organisations, the Non-Aligned Movement and the Islamic World, but all these bids have been rejected by Iran and all mediation efforts rendered futile because Tehran continues to insist on pursuing its goals," the statement added.

It said the continuation of the war and Iran's refusal to reach a peaceful end proved the following facts:

"Iran's insistence on pursuing the conflict was designed to destroy Iraq and dismember its people and create dissension among the country's sects and aimed at destroying Iraq's power and military might."

"Iran's ambitions and objectives complement those harboured by forces hostile to the Arab and Islamic nations which strive to liberate Palestine and its holy places from occupation," the

(Continued on page 3)

Hijack survivors leave Karachi; Pakistan confirms holding gunmen

KARACHI (Agencies) — A special Pan Am Jumbo jet took off Sunday for Europe with 222 of the passengers who survived the bloody hijacking of a sister airliner by four gunmen.

The Pan Am Boeing 747 took off for Frankfurt en route for London and New York with the survivors, including eight infants. The other Pan Am Jumbo jet, seized by gunmen Friday and damaged by grenade blasts, remained at the airport.

Another 89 survivors, including 15 wounded, were evacuated to Bombay last Sunday on a special Indian Airlines Airbus. Eleven seriously wounded passengers were flown to West Germany on Saturday on a U.S. Air Force C-141 plane. An undetermined number of passengers remained in Karachi.

The Pakistani government issued a statement Sunday saying the four gunmen who had hijacked the Pan Am flight when it landed at Karachi on Friday from Bombay were alive and being held in an army camp. Government officials had said after the hijacking ended Friday night that

two of the gunmen had been killed and two captured.

A statement by the civil aviation authority said one of the hijackers was slightly wounded. Government officials refused to say more or talk about why they had reported earlier that two of the gunmen were killed.

Some passengers said Sunday they were scared to fly again after enduring the 17-hour hijacking ordeal. Others said they did not want to fly on American planes any more because they feared being hijacked again.

The four gunmen were disguised in the blue uniforms of the airport security force when they drove up to the Pan Am Jumbo jet in a truck painted to look like a security vehicle. The men stormed aboard firing machine guns as the plane loaded passengers.

Officials confirmed Sunday that five security men had been suspended while they were investigated for "negligence." The five were guarding the gate through which the disguised gunmen drove on to the tarmac Friday, the officials said.

The three-man Pan Am cockpit crew escaped from the plane when they heard the hijackers firing, and the gunmen demanded another crew to fly them to Cyprus, where they said they wanted to release three jailed Palestinians. The gunmen opened fire on the passengers and detonated hand grenades when the plane's lights failed after 17 hours.

Pakistani officials were still not sure Sunday how many people died on the plane, but most officials said 14 passengers and a Pan Am flight stewardess had been killed. Some officials said a Pan Am ground worker also was slain.

A plain wooden coffin containing the body of the Pan Am stewardess, who was an Indian citizen, was loaded aboard the Indian evacuation plane. A red-and-white floral wreath was placed atop the coffin.

Indian newspapers identified

Kuwaiti paper sees U.S. and Israeli hands in Karachi and Istanbul attacks, page 2

Soviets clear key hurdle in Stockholm talks

STOCKHOLM (R) — Moscow's acceptance of allowing neutral countries to play a role in monitoring compliance of arms control treaties clears one of the main obstacles to agreement at European disarmament talks here, delegates said Sunday.

Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Aubert said on Saturday in Moscow that the Soviet Union had conditionally accepted a Swiss offer made at the European disarmament conference in Stockholm to provide East and West with a plane and crew for inspection of each other's troop movements.

Austria, a neutral country like Switzerland, has made a similar offer.

Western delegates said the Soviet move removed one of the last major obstacles to an agreement at the 35-nation conference, which ends on Sept. 19.

"It is a very positive thing. It clears one of the last hurdles," one NATO delegate told Reuters.

Soviet Chief of Staff Marshal Sergei Akhromeyev told the conference last month that the Warsaw Pact could accept aerial inspection only if it was done in aircraft provided and flown by the inspected country.

Moscow says U.S. staged nuclear test last week

MOSCOW (R) — The Communist Party daily Pravda said on Sunday that the United States had conducted a nuclear test in Nevada last Thursday and accused Washington of seeking to force an arms race on the Soviet Union.

Pravda said Moscow's extension of its unilateral nuclear test moratorium until the end of the year was seen by numerous countries as opening real perspectives for starting to solve "the most urgent problem of the day" — ending the arms race.

"The echo of the explosion that thundered from the Nevada test site on Sept. 4 reminds the people on earth what kind of obstacles and obstructions stand in the way," it said.

"By continuing nuclear tests the United States demonstrates its disregard for people's hopes forever to eliminate ... the threat of the annihilation of all life on earth."

The official news agency TASS, in a report from New York, earlier quoted the U.S. anti-war organisation American Peace Trust as saying a secret U.S. test was conducted in Nevada on Thursday.

Meanwhile in Washington, top Soviet arms negotiator Viktor Karpov said no progress had been made in two days of talks with his

U.S. counterparts. "No progress has been made," Mr. Karpov told reporters as the Soviet delegation left the State Department at the end of the session on Saturday. There was no immediate word from the U.S. side, led by veteran adviser Paul Nitze.

The talks were aimed at seeking a basis for progress when Secretary of State George Shultz meets Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in two weeks to prepare for a possible summit later this year.

On entering the talks on Saturday, Mr. Karpov had said: "We are prepared to reach an agreement if there is readiness on the American side."

The talks, lasting a total of 16 hours, had been expected to affect prospects for a second summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

They follow meetings in Moscow between the same teams of experts last month. State Department officials had said no details of the discussions would be made public.

Mr. Gorbachev has repeatedly linked a summit to concrete progress on arms control and has shied away from setting a date. Both sides have made new arms control proposals which will be on the table in Geneva on Sept. 18.



Mr. Daifulla Hamud (third from right), chairman of the National Committee for Supporting Iraq, holds a press conference on Sunday to announce the launching of a national campaign to raise funds to help Iraq's war effort (Petra photo)

Sharon's remarks linking Istanbul attack to Peres' policy spark crisis

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres abruptly suspended further meetings of his government Sunday until Trade Minister Ariel Sharon retracts an accusation that Mr. Peres' policies invited the Istanbul synagogue killings on Saturday.

Mr. Peres broke off the weekly meeting of his 25-member cabinet after 10 minutes, saying Sharon could not remain in the government as long as he criticised its actions, Mr. Peres' aides said.

The cabinet had been set to consider Israel's response to the attack on the Neve Shalom synagogue in Istanbul, Turkey, on Saturday in which 22 people were killed. Newspaper editorials called for a tough military reprisal.

Mr. Peres' showdown with Sharon threatened to throw the coalition government into crisis just five weeks before Mr. Peres, head of the Labour Party, is to relinquish his office under a

power-sharing accord with Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir of the rival right-wing Likud bloc. Two previous clashes between Mr. Peres and Sharon have brought the shaky coalition government to the brink of collapse since its formation two years ago.

A cabinet statement issued after Sunday's short meeting said: "The prime minister ... insisted on his demand that minister Sharon retract his words implying that the murder of the worshippers in Istanbul is a result of the weakness of the government and its policies."

Mr. Peres vowed he would hold no further cabinet sessions until Sharon apologised, as he did in a previous crisis last year.

"Yesterday's murder left a ghastly impression on all of us. At the same time a cabinet member indirectly and directly laid responsibility for the act on the government," Mr. Peres said.

Sharon left the prime ministers' office telling reporters: "I won't say a word, not two words, not one word."

The hawkish former defence minister triggered the crisis by saying peace moves towards Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians "were interpreted as Israeli weakness and invited Palestinian terrorist aggression."

"The unceasing pursuit of dubious and baseless peace plans at a time when our enemies are waging an unending war against us contributed to the weakening of the Israeli shield ... and has exposed Jews abroad even more to Palestinian terror," he said in a radio interview.

Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz, a key mediator in previous coalition crises, said if Sharon did not take back his words "I believe the prime minister will fire him. Jewish blood was spilled and suddenly there is fighting among Jews."

Turkey hunts for clues to synagogue attack amid claims and counter-claims

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — Turkish police and security forces on Sunday hunted for clues to the killing on Saturday of 21 people at an Istanbul synagogue by a two-man suicide squad as claims and counter-claims to the attack were issued in Beirut and Ankara.

In Israel, Prime Minister Shimon Peres hinted at reprisals as his government plunged into crisis over a statement by headline Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon blaming Israeli peace efforts for the attack.

Police officials said they were trying to identify the two gunmen who burst into the Neve Shalom synagogue early Saturday, firing on the congregation with submachine guns and hurling hand grenades.

The gunmen apparently blew themselves up in the attack at the largest of Istanbul's 13 synagogues, which was holding its first Sabbath service since it closed for renovations nearly two months ago. Their dismembered bodies were found among the debris.

Police swamped the streets of Istanbul during the night, conducting intensive traffic and identity checks, and guarding key buildings, including the Israeli consulate-general.

Extra police patrolled the capital, Ankara, which has one synagogue, and intensified security at the heavily-fortified Israeli legation. Authorities in Turkey's third city, Izmir, announced that its two synagogues would be protected.

The police inquiry proceeded, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal rejected speculation Libya was behind the assault.

"The attack has nothing to do with Libya. There may be a connection with Lebanon," he told reporters, according to the semi-official Anatolian news agency.

The Palestine Liberation

Organisation (PLO) condemned the attack, as did Libya and many other countries.

Diplomats said neither Israel nor Turkey had suggested that Israeli experts assist Turkish efforts to identify the two gunmen. Police had determined that the raiders first used up all their ammunition on the congregation, supporting the theory that it was a suicide squad.

In Tunis, senior PLO official Salah Khalaf (Abu Iyad) told a news conference: "The PLO rejects these methods and condemns this form of struggle."

Egypt was among many countries to call for greater international cooperation to counter terrorism. A government statement in Cairo said "Egypt condemns terrorism and acts of violence aimed at innocent people." It urged all countries to take "practical steps towards putting an end to such terrorist attacks."

The appeal took the group back to one of its fundamental principles when it was founded a quarter of a century ago last week by 25 nations with a global view of peace and independence from the two superpowers.

Mr. Mugabe also stressed the movement's role, telling reporters: "We have worked assiduously against racism, apartheid and Zionism as well as against all forms of oppression and foreign domination."

But since the inaugural Belgrade summit in 1961 the group has grown to become the biggest world body outside the United Nations.

Differences at the meeting were inevitable with every form of government represented from military rule to multi-party democracy, monarchy to Marxism.

Iran and Iraq used the platform in the Irish, golden conference centre to rail at each other over the Gulf war, speaker after speaker criticised the United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan swapped insults and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi attacked the movement itself as a farce.

"We have not pretended that our talks were easy, we have not concealed the fact that occasionally we have different perceptions on some issues," Mr. Mugabe said.

Friday's session was overshadowed by the blood end to the Pan American Jumbo jet hijacking in Karachi, which prompted a brief row between India and Pakistan.

The meeting was held here to focus attention on Zimbabwe's southern neighbour, only 750 kilometres away, just three months after South African troops struck at a house and office in Harare of the African National Congress.

There had been pre-summit fears that Pretoria would act to disrupt the meeting and security was tight with armed troops guarding the conference complex and trucks carrying anti-aircraft guns patrolling round it.

Non-Aligned Movement appeals for end to arms race

HARARE (Agencies) — The Non-Aligned Movement summit, driven remorselessly through the night by Zimbabwean leader Robert Mugabe, came to an exhausted end on Sunday with an impassioned appeal to the superpowers to halt the arms race.

At a pre-dawn press conference after six days of marathon sessions, the group's newly-elected chairman called the summit a tremendous success.

But much of its proceedings had been overshadowed by the 101-member body's very diversity and the final session ended hours late after weary delegates battled to end one last argument.

Saudi Arabia had threatened to pull out if the 1988 foreign ministers' meeting was held in North Korea. Cyprus was eventually chosen as the compromise site.

But no agreement was reached on the venue for the 1989 summit and that decision was deferred to the Niocosa meeting.

In two massive reports on the global political and economic situation, the summit: — blasted the United States for practising states terrorism; — urged immediate world sanctions against South Africa; — called for an end to the Gulf war;

— agreed to set up a special fund to help black southern African states; — called U.S. support for rebels in Nicaragua "illegal and immoral";

— said "Third World debt was unbearable and repayment beyond the means of many developing countries;

— called International Monetary Fund (IMF) policies inadequate. In a dramatic appeal to the superpowers, the movement sent identical letters to Moscow and Washington to end the arms race, stating: "Never before has humanity been so near self-destruction."

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Taba arbitration issue holds up summit talks

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian and Israeli negotiators held a private session Sunday to discuss their border dispute with the United States trying to steer its two main Middle Eastern allies towards a summit.

David Kimche, head of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, and chief Egyptian negotiator Nabil Al Arabi met at a Cairo hotel to try to resolve outstanding problems delaying an arbitration accord on the Sinai enclave of Taba.

A proposed summit between President Hosni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres is scheduled tentatively for Sept. 10, but Egypt insists the Taba arbitration terms must be resolved before it can take place.

Foreign Ministry sources said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, who had two-hour talks with Mr. Mubarak Saturday on the summit and other Middle East issues, is expected to see Foreign Minister Ahmad Esmat Abdul Maguid in Cairo again for further discussions.

The United States, which sponsored the 1979 peace treaty

between Israel and Egypt, has been pressing for normalisation of relations between the two states as a first step to reactivating the stalled Middle East peace process.

Mr. Murphy shuttled between Jordan, Israel and Egypt to try to get the three sides to agree on a joint peace declaration but Cairo-based diplomats said the issue appears to have been dropped after a lukewarm reception to the proposal in Amman.

The main stumbling blocks holding up a final arbitration document on Taba, a 700-metre Red Sea coastal strip, are disagreement on names of the three arbitrators and an annex outlining demarcation lines of the disputed area.

Western diplomats said it appeared the two sides had achieved little progress on the

mapping dispute as Egypt was rejecting an Israeli proposal to submit a "polygram" containing two separate border lines to an arbitration panel.

The first claim would put the frontier at a fence now separating the two countries while the second line proposed by Israel runs 250 metres east of the fence leaving an Israeli-built five-star hotel in Israel's hands.

Israel retained Taba when it pulled out from the rest of the Sinai peninsula in 1982 but the two countries have agreed to refer the dispute to international arbitrators, whose decision would be binding.

Mr. Murphy said his talks with Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Abdul Maguid were useful.

"I have sensed a lot of goodwill here and in Israel and they are trying to reach a final compromise as soon as possible," he told reporters.

Israeli negotiators led by David Kimche spent part of the weekend in Alexandria and met Mr. Murphy and his aides.

Karami concerned over situation in South

BEIRUT (R) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami has voiced concern over the situation in South Lebanon ahead of a visit here by a top United Nations official to discuss urgent measures to improve security for U.N. peacekeeping troops.

The visit by U.N. Undersecretary-General Marrack Goulding follows the death of three French soldiers in a roadside bombing on Thursday. The U.N. Security Council subsequently urged better security for the nine-nation, 5,800-strong force.

Mr. Karami said the situation was a cause of deep concern and stressed the need to implement U.N. resolutions on Lebanon when he addressed officials at his summer residence near the northern town of Tripoli Saturday.

He singled out Security Council Resolution 425 which set up the U.N. force in 1978 to supervise an Israeli withdrawal and restore Lebanese government authority in the South. Israel still controls a border buffer zone in South Lebanon.

"The implementation of these resolutions is in our national and pan-Arab interest, and the liberation of the South will remain our aim," an official announcement quoted him as saying.

Libyans tighten belts after oil price drop

TRIPOLI (R) — On the ground floor of the "people's supermarket," once a showcase of Socialist retailing, only two products fill the aisles — powdered milk and ghee. Empty cheese and meat racks gather dust.

Long lines form at shops in the centre of Tripoli for meat, flour and sugar. Butter recently reappeared in the market for the first time in six months, residents say.

After more than a decade of rising living standards, Libyans are having to tighten their belts. Diplomats in Tripoli say U.S. economic sanctions have so far had little impact. It is the fall in oil income that has led authorities to adopt draconian import and spending curbs.

The diplomats, interviewed by this correspondent on a recent trip to Tripoli, said food shortages are the most visible sign of recession in a country where foreign trade was nationalised by Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi in 1979 as part of a socialist programme.

Diplomats say oil income this year is likely to be only half last year's \$10 billion. Oil exports are virtually the only source of hard currency for Libya to import food, consumer goods and machinery, and finance development schemes.

Ministry of Planning figures published in a local newspaper last week estimate that gross domestic product (GDP) — the total value of goods and services produced — will fall this year to 5.9 billion dinars (\$19.7 billion), 21 per cent down on 7.5 billion dinars (\$25 billion) in 1984.

Non-oil GDP is expected to fall 3.5 per cent to 4.4 billion dinars (\$14.7 billion) over the same

period, illustrating the repercussions of the oil sector's plunge. No 1985 statistics are available.

Diplomats say sanctions by the U.S. and its Western allies are so far a minor factor in Libya's economic troubles.

Last January, President Reagan banned U.S. firms from doing business with Libya on the grounds it supported "international terrorism," a charge Tripoli denies.

But diplomats say Libya has so far proved able to circumvent the ban by importing U.S. goods through intermediaries or from foreign subsidiaries.

Libyan Arab Airlines, for example, manages to import spare parts for its fleet of Boeing aircraft and recently took delivery of two European Airbus jets with U.S.-built engines. These were bought from the British independent airline British Caledonian through British and Hong Kong brokers.

Imports from Libya's main trading partner, Italy, fell 20 per cent to \$1.2 billion in the first four months of 1986 against the same period of 1985.

But Italian officials in Tripoli say political tension between Libya and Europe and nothing to do with the drop and it reflected the general cutback in Libyan imports.

Britain's exports to Libya in the first half of 1986 were, however, unchanged from the same period of 1985 at \$180 million.

The June 30 withdrawal of U.S. oil and oil service firms has potentially more serious implications, but diplomats say it is too early to tell whether Libya can produce and market its oil as

effectively without U.S. help.

Five U.S. companies have shares in three Libyan oil firms and had marketed nearly a quarter of Libyan oil output.

Diplomats say oil production has fallen to around 900,000 barrels per day (bpd) from an average of 1.16 million bpd in July, but attribute this to tough pricing policies and compliance with an OPEC quota of 940,000 bpd which is in force during September and October.

The revolutionary government follows a highly orthodox financial policy aimed at curbing expenditure and minimising debt. "Their concept of budget is to spend only what they have," said one Asian diplomat.

A 1986 budget published but never approved by the General People's Congress (parliament) estimated spending and revenues at 3.06 billion dinars (\$10.2 billion).

But after the sudden drop in oil price, diplomats believe the budget was abandoned and spending slashed to meet revenue.

Contractors, owed a total of some \$3 billion in overdue payments, report chronic payment delays. They report only one major contract award this year — a \$40 to \$50 million power plant for the "great man-made river" project.

The massive project, whose first phase alone is worth \$3.3 billion, aims to make Libya self-sufficient in wheat and agricultural produce by irrigating its parched coastal plain with water pumped from underground aquifers in the desert. Contractors say it is the only project paid for on time and in cash.

Libya has been trying to repay

its contractors' debts with oil, and diplomats said it began shipments to Italy in July of some 100,000 bpd for this purpose.

The Italian state oil concern AGIP is lifting and selling the oil and proceeds are distributed to Italian companies owed \$600 to \$700 million to back payments.

Other countries with large outstanding contractors' payments include Turkey (\$400 million), South Korea (\$186 million) and India (\$120 million). The Soviet Union is owed \$5 billion for arms purchases, and the diplomat said Turkey and the Soviet Union worked out "oil-for-debt" deals, but South Korean firms balked at the oil price.

Despite oil deals, import curbs and other measures to conserve hard currency, diplomats say Libya could record a \$5 billion current account deficit in 1986, compared to \$1.2 billion in 1984, the last year for which official figures are available.

Abu Nidal 'seeks to leave Syria'

ABU DHABI (R) — The radical Palestinian guerrilla group led by Abu Nidal wants to move its base from Syria to Greece under pressure from Syrian authorities, a United Arab Emirates (UAE) paper reported Sunday. Al Itihad, quoting high-level sources, said Damascus had arrested Abu Nidal's cousin Abu Hisham and 13 other members of the group after receiving evidence they were involved in terrorism. It gave no other details.

Papers blame CIA, Israeli intelligence for Pan Am, synagogue attacks

KUWAIT (AP) — Two Kuwaiti newspapers on Sunday charged that the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and Israel instigated the Pan American jetliner hijack in Pakistan and the gun attack on a Jewish synagogue in Turkey.

They said the CIA and the Israeli intelligence were "fishing for a pretext" to attack Libya and other Arab countries in the Middle East.

The independent newspaper Al Anbaa said editorially that the Arab powers denounce such hijack and synagogue massacre crimes and condemn the perpetrators. "But we also

wonder who stands to benefit from such crimes...and we find no one except Israel," it said.

"We suspect the integrity of the perpetrators and would not discount the likelihood that the American and the Israeli intelligence services were behind the two crimes...in an attempt to justify further aggression against Arab countries," the paper said.

The newspaper Al Qabas contended the hijack and synagogue attack were "nothing but an American scenario, devised to justify yet another aggression in the Middle East."

The independent paper said that the synagogue attack in

Istanbul on Saturday was "rather mysterious, since no political demands were announced and the perpetrators seem to exist only in machinations of suspicious scenarios."

The radical newspaper Al Rai Al Amn however blamed the hijack and synagogue massacre on the "U.S. refusal to recognise Palestinian rights...while Washington grants Israel's right to reject the idea of a Palestinian state."

At least 15 passengers were killed and more than 120 others injured in the Pan American airliner hijack by four gunmen in Karachi.

Tunis opens inquiry into Mzali's disappearance

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Authorities have opened an inquiry into the disappearance of former Prime Minister Mohammed Mzali, official sources said Sunday.

Tunisian newspapers, in their first references to Mr. Mzali since he was fired almost two months ago, reported Sunday that corruption charges might be filed against him in his absence.

Official sources, speaking on condition that they not be identified, confirmed that Mr. Mzali has disappeared from his home near Tunis, but they claimed they did not know whether he had left the country or was hiding somewhere inside Tunisia.

Mr. Mzali's wife, Fethia, herself a former minister in the Tunisian government, told reporters he telephoned her from Palermo, Sicily, on Thursday after having slipped quietly out of the country. Mr. Mzali was abruptly fired on

July 8 by President-for-Life Habib Bourguiba after serving for more than six years as prime minister and automatic successor to the 83-year-old president.

All Tunisian newspapers carried reports Sunday on Mr. Mzali's disappearance, and referred to corruption charges faced by several members of his family.

L'Action, daily paper of the ruling Destourian Socialist Party, said the inquiry would determine by what means and for what reasons Mr. Mzali left Tunisia and said "at the very least he is guilty of illegally crossing the Tunisian frontier."

It was the first time since Mr. Mzali's unexplained dismissal that his name has been mentioned in any Tunisian newspaper.

Tunisia admitted Saturday that its security forces had lost track of Mr. Mzali.

Sudan appoints new army chief

KHARTOUM (R) — Major-General Abdul Azeim Siddek has been named chief-of-staff of Sudan's armed forces, replacing Gen. Mohammad Tawfiq Khalil who was dismissed last week, the official Sudan News Agency SUNA said Sunday.

Sudan's five-member supreme council announced last Thursday that it was retiring Gen. Khalil. Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Tajeddin Abdullah Fadal and three other senior officials.

Maj.-Gen. Fawzi Ahmad Al Fadil, earlier named acting commander-in-chief, was confirmed as full commander-in-chief, SUNA said.

Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi said the officers were replaced because they were no longer capable of commanding the army.

Cyprus protests plan to settle 5,000 more Turks in North

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — The Cypriot government Sunday protested to the United Nations and foreign governments over Turkey's plan to send 5,000 more settlers to the Turkish-occupied northern region of the war-divided island.

Government spokesman Petros Voskarides said the government is also protesting the allocation to the Turkish settlers of 42.5 per cent of the usurped land of the 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees forcibly expelled from the Turkish-occupied region.

"This is an unheard of and unprecedented usurpation," Mr. Voskarides added in a written statement.

He said the 5,000 additional settlers will be added to the 60,000 Turks from the mainland "already implanted in the area occupied by Turkey, with a view changing demographic composition of the area."

The settlers from the mainland bolster the native Turkish Cypriot population of 117,000, a 17 per cent minority compared to the Greek Cypriot majority on the island.

Mr. Voskarides charged Turkey is sending Turkish colonisers to North Cyprus to "prop up the illegal regime of Rauf Denktaş," — the president of the breakaway Turkish Cypriot state proclaimed unilaterally in the

Turkish-occupied region.

"These new Turkish provocations constitute additional proof of the true intentions of Turkey, which does not hesitate to subjugate even the Turkish Cypriots in order to impose her expansionist designs on Cyprus," he added.

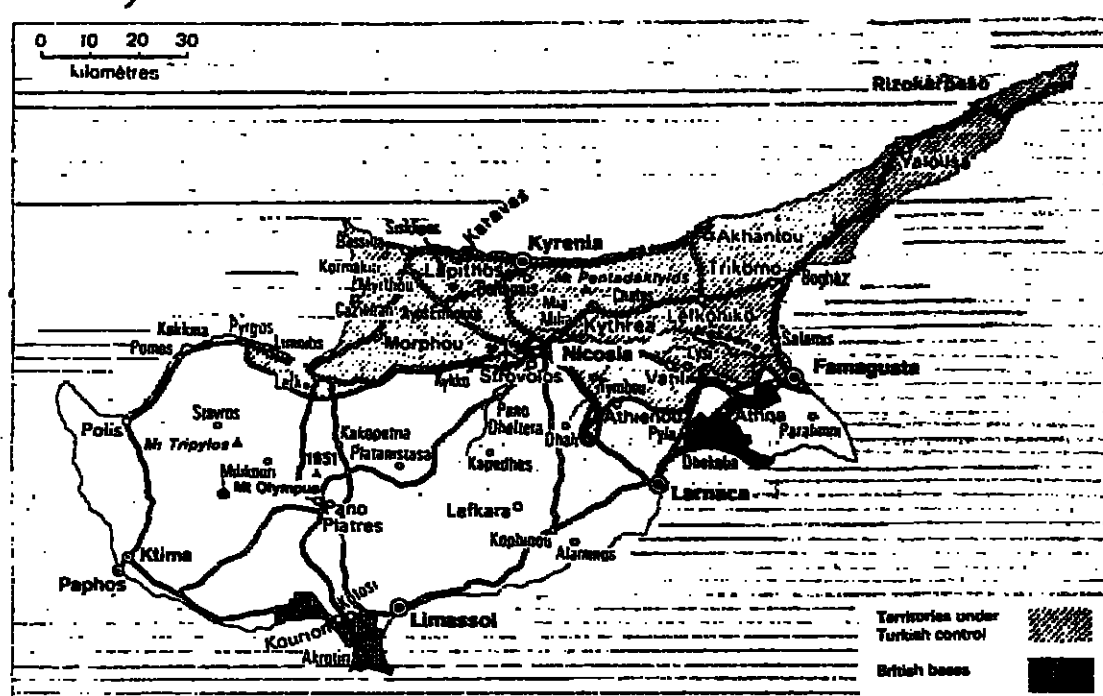
Turkey invaded and occupied the northern one third of the east Mediterranean island in 1974 ostensibly to protect the Turkish Cypriot minority in the wake of an abortive coup by Greek Cypriot extremists seeking union with Greece.

The establishment of breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in November 1983 has been denounced as illegal by the U.N. Security Council, which demanded the abrogation of the unilateral declaration.

The satellite Turkish Cypriot ministe has only been recognised by Turkey.

A series of U.N. Security Council and General Assembly resolutions ignored by Turkey demand the withdrawal of the 25,000 Turkish occupation troops and the return of the Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes.

Mr. Voskarides' statement added that "the continuing unprecedented violations of human rights by Turkey in Cyprus should be fully grasped by all those who are sincerely interested



in finding a settlement of the Cyprus problem."

The member states of the Council of Europe and the European Community (EC), with whom Turkey is trying to establish closer relations, should also pay particular attention to this situation in Cyprus, Mr. Voskarides said.

"To overlook the crimes and violations of human rights which

Turkey continues to perpetrate against Cyprus and its people would be incompatible with internationally accepted principles and traditions," he added.

Earlier in the week the Cyprus government protested to the Security Council over the inclusion of settlers from mainland Turkey in a new cabinet of the breakaway state in the

north.

A government statement charged this was part of a long term strategy by Turkey to annex the whole island.

The formation of a new cabinet with the inclusion and support of the mainland settlers has also been denounced by Turkish Cypriot opposition parties controlling 21 seats in the 50-member Turkish Cypriot parliament.

TV & RADIO		WHAT'S GOING ON		FOR THE TRAVELLER		USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 771111 PROGRAMME ONE 17:00 Koran 17:30 Cartoons 17:45 Scientific programmes for children 18:05 BBC Cosbi 18:30 Animal World 19:00 Local programme 19:30 News Review 19:50 Local programme 20:00 News in Arabic 20:45 Local programme on the new scholastic year 21:00 Arabic series 22:00 Varieties 22:45 Local Comedy 23:00 News in Arabic PROGRAMME TWO 18:00 Medecins de nuit 19:00 News in French 19:15 Sport magazine 19:30 News in Hebrew 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Growing Pains 21:10 Moonlighting 22:00 News in English 22:30 Crown Court RADIO JORDAN 855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 9560 KHz. SW Tel: 774111-19 07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsday 08:00 Morning Show 08:30 News Summary 09:00 Pop Session 10:00 Yes Minister 11:00 News Summary 12:00 Pop Session Cont. 13:00 News Summary 14:00 News Bulletin 14:10 Instruments 14:15 Over a Cup of Tea 15:00 Concert Hour 16:00 News Summary 16:30 Instruments 16:45 Old Favorites 17:00 Talking About Music 17:30 Pop Session 18:00 News Summary 18:30 Sports Round-up 18:30 Music 19:00 Newsday 19:30 Date with a Star 20:00 Evening Show 21:00 News Summary		TODAY'S EVENTS EXHIBITIONS * An exhibition of paintings of Amman, Tunisia and Jerusalem by Frank Hallam Day at the Architectural Gallery at Riyadh Centre. * An exhibition of applied arts and crafts by Jamal Badran at the British Council (until Sept. 11). VIDEOS * A video showing on sports history of professional football at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre. * "Madness de Service" at 4:00 p.m. at the American Centre. CULTURAL CENTRES Royal Cultural Centre .. tel. 6610267 American Centre .. 644371 American Cultural Library .. 641520 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637005 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 644203 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 624049 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Hays Arts Centre .. 665195 Hussein Youth City .. 6671816 Y.W.C.A. .. 641793 American Centre .. 664251 Amman Municipal Library .. 637111 University of Jordan Library 843555 MUSEUMS Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Cliffside). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Museum: Jabal Lawadieh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128. Maryam's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. SERVICE CLUBS Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel. 7:30 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn. 1:30 p.m. Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel. 2:00 p.m. Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815261, 815410. CHURCHES St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lawadieh. Tel. 637440. De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein. Tel. 661757. Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Jabal. Tel. 623541. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman. Tel. 678906. American Catholic Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh. Tel. 772661. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh. Tel. 771751. Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyya. Tel. 677534. Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle. (Rev. N. Smir). Tel. 811295. Rabwah Congregation (International, Inter-denominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman. Tel. 609774. PRAYER TIMES 04:50 Fajr 05:10 Sunrise 12:34 Dhuhr 16:46 Asr 18:00 Maghrib 20:26 Isha		QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT This information is supplied by Alia International department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08) 53300-5, where it should always be verified. ARRIVALS 07:25 Cairo (MS) 09:15 Agaba (RU) 09:45 Santa Fe (GF) 10:30 Kuwait (RU) 10:45 Cairo (RU) 11:00 Damascus (RU) 11:30 Jeddah (SV) 11:30 Abu Dhabi (RU) 11:30 Muscat, Bahrain (RU) 11:45 Dubai (EK) 12:00 Baghdad (IA) 14:30 Muscat, Bahrain (GF) 16:35 Kuwait (RU) 16:30 Ankara (TK) 17:55 Larnaca (RU) 18:00 Cairo (RU) 18:30 New York, Vienna (RU) 19:10 Bucharest (RU) 19:15 Casablanca, Tunis (RU) 19:25 Beirut (MEA) 19:30 Athens (SV) 19:45 U.S. sterling pound .. 509/6 19:45 U.S. dollar .. 341/8 19:45 German mark .. 166/3 01:25 Baghdad (RU) DEPARTURES 07:40 Agaba (RU) 07:40 Damascus, Athens (OA) 08:20 Cairo (MS) 10:40 Frankfurt (GF) 12:00 Dubai (EK) 12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RU) 12:15 Bucharest (RU) 12:30 Athens (SV) 12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RU) WEATHER Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. It will be relatively warm with northwesterly moderate winds, but in the afternoon, a decrease in temperature is expected with the appearance of some low clouds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm. Amman .. 20/31 Agaba .. 25/35 Dabab .. 21/36 Jordan Valley .. 24/36 Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Agaba 36, Humidity readings: Amman 29 per cent, Agaba 31 per cent.		EMERGENCIES Amman civil defence .. 891228 Amman civil defence .. 198, 199 Civil Defence Unit .. 271293, 271331 Civil Defence Quesneish .. 770733 Civil Defence Deir Alla .. 57004 Ambulance .. 193, 77511 Amman downtown fire brigade .. 198 First aid .. 630341 Blood bank .. 778303 Civil Defence rescue .. 661111 Fire headquarters .. 622050-3 Police rescue .. 192, 621111, 637777 Police headquarters .. 639141 Traffic police .. 8963901 Electric Power Co. 6363814, 624881 Municipal water complaints 7711258 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53300/060 HOSPITALS Hussein Medical Centre .. 813813/32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6 Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 642410 Jabal Amman Maternity .. 642362 Mathias, J. Amman .. 636140 Palestine, Shamsiyya .. 664171/4 Shamsiyya Hospital .. 669131 University Hospital .. 845845/55 Al-Musharraf Hospital .. 667227/9 The Islamic, Abdali .. 666127/37 Al-Abdali, Abdali .. 664164/6 Italian, Al-Musharraf .. 777101/3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh .. 777111/26 Army, Madaba .. 891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital .. 602240/20 Amman Hospital .. 674155 NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Fouad Nour .. 638189 Dr. Salim Dabbas .. 812468 First pharmacy .. 661912 Al-Salam pharmacy .. 636730 Al-Sabah pharmacy .. 668056 Khalid pharmacy .. 778653 TAKSIS: Kamal taxi .. 668761 Qader taxi .. 630557 Ambassador taxi .. 664660 Al-Jabal taxi .. 842563 Queen taxi .. 645020 Nabidh taxi .. 663003 IRBID: Dr. Loufi Shalabi .. 241789 ZARQA: Dr. Nasir Zyadah .. 984107 GENERAL Jordan Television .. 773111/19 Radio Jordan .. 774111/19 Ministry of Tourism .. 642311 Hotel complaints .. 664112 Price complaints .. 661176 Telephone Information .. 12 Jordan and Middle East calls .. 10 Overseas calls .. 17 Repulse service .. 11	
MARKET PRICES Upper/lower price in Jls per kg. Apple .. 300/240 Apple (green) .. 460/400 Apple (American & African) .. 440/380 Banana .. 300/260 Banana (Mekong) .. 250/220 Beans .. 460/350 Cabbage .. 160/100 Carrot (yellow & black) .. 180/120 Cauliflower .. 240/180 Cucumbers .. 360/300 Dates .. 200/120 Eggplant (small) .. 150/100 Eggplant (large) .. 180/120 Figs (black) .. 450/350 Figs (other kinds) .. 800/650 Grapes .. 300/200 Grapefruit .. 180/140 Jassim .. 300/300 Lemon .. 150/100 Marrow .. 280/180 Mallow .. 70/40 Melon (Swiss) .. 200/120 Onion (dry) .. 140/90 Okra .. 600/400 Orange (Abn Stars) .. 120/80 Parsley .. 70/70 Pepper (sweet) .. 120/60 Pepper (hot) .. 140/80 Potatoes .. 180/120 Potatoes .. 450/400 Segaki .. 280/200 Tomatoes .. 100/70 Watermelon .. 190/80							

Back to school today

AMMAN (Petra) — The new 1986/87 scholastic year begins today in Jordan with approximately 973,600 male and female students of all ages attending classes from the kindergarten stage through the secondary cycle. At least 39,800 men and women teachers are employed to teach students at various levels in 396 schools around the country, according to the Ministry of Education.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali, speaking on the eve of the new scholastic year, said that 106,412 students are joining the first elementary class for their first time and he added that students in the compulsory stage at Jordanian schools are in the age range of between six and 16 years.

Students taking academic courses in secondary schools this year number 119,114, which is nearly 76.5 per cent of the total number of students enrolled in the secondary stage and 37,321 students are taking vocational training courses, Mr. Majali added.

The minister appealed to all teachers to promote their techniques and methods of teaching in order to impart the most useful education to their students and to contribute to the physical, mental and social development of their pupils. He called on the students to be diligent and to acquire as many skills and as much knowledge as possible for their future and for their community.

Mr. Majali announced that his ministry is now studying the possibility of allowing tawjihi students to study only six subjects for the tawjihi examination, rather than eight. He also said the Ministry of Education is keen on creating the most suitable atmosphere for students and teachers to make the learning process successful.

Mr. Majali paid tribute to the teachers on the occupied West Bank who, he said, are performing their mission under the very difficult circumstances of Israeli occupation.

Hamzeh addresses WHO conference in Acapulco

ACAPULCO (Petra) — Jordan suffers from an imbalance in the distribution of human resources involved in the medical profession as the country has a surplus of doctors and a shortage of nurses and midwives, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Saturday.

Addressing an international conference on medical sciences, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), Dr. Hamzeh said that many countries apart from Jordan also face the problem of such imbalances which is a serious matter as it negatively affects primary health care projects.

In 1962, 32 new doctors joined the medical profession in Jordan and this figure jumped to 87 in 1973 and to 438 in 1985; but this increase has not been matched by a complementary increase in the number of male and female nurses

and midwives who are badly needed for the country's development, the minister continued. He said that Jordan faces a sharp and growing increase in the number of newly graduated doctors, most of whom are unable to find jobs and this could cause serious social and economic difficulties for the Kingdom and negatively affect the medical profession.

The minister urged governments around the world to take steps and introduce measures to rectify the situation and to stop such imbalances.

He also underlined the importance of the Acapulco conference which, he said, aimed to help participating countries find solutions to such imbalances and to help achieve higher levels of health for all citizens by the year 2000.

Jordan launches campaign

(Continued from page 1)

statement said. — "The Iraqi people should be supported in this war because they are brothers who never shirked their national duty to come to the help of Arab countries in time of need. Helping Iraq is a national duty for the Arab people everywhere," the statement said.

— "By repelling Iran's aggression, the Iraqi people and armed forces are defending the whole Arab Nation and for this reason all Arabs and Muslims ought to rally to support the Iraqi people who are paying dearly in their struggle to repel aggression and offering huge sacrifice in this costly war, it continued.

— "Iran's rulers who have rejected all calls for peace and turned down every mediation aimed at establishing peace between the two neighbouring Muslim nations have thus turned themselves into aggressors who reject the laws of God and the Holy Koran."

Dr. Humud, chairman of the National Committee for Supporting Iraq, made the announcement at a press conference in Amman Sunday.

Mr. Humud said the Gulf war "entails grave danger to all, and should be brought to an immediate end."

"Since the very beginning Iraq, from a position of strength, has said it was willing to reach a settlement and accepted mediation efforts to end the conflict, and for this reason Jordan has supported Iraq and continues

to support it in the face of Iran's aggression."

Mr. Humud said: "It is a national duty to help Iraq and support our debt to the Iraqi people who supported Arab countries in all previous wars with the enemy, and offered huge sacrifice for Palestine and for protecting Arab interests and rights."

Mr. Humud said all Arab banks in the Kingdom had been authorised to accept donations for the national committee and added that all donations would be exempted from income tax.

The National Committee for Supporting Iraq had made arrangements for the campaign and set-up sub-committees in all provinces, Mr. Humud added.

Addressing the press conference also was Shaker Al Taleb, a lawyer and member of the national committee. Mr. Taleb said that Iraq's battle "is one for all Arabs because the Iraqi armed forces are now defending Arab soil and Arab interests."

"The war Iraq is waging at the eastern flank of the Arab World is complementary to the Arab Nation's struggle against the Israeli aggression on the western flank," Mr. Taleb said.

"The Israelis have maintained collaboration in arms with the Iranians, and say they will not remain idle if the Iranians were defeated because such a course, as they claim, would endanger Israel's security," Mr. Taleb said.

"It was for this reason Israel raided the Iraqi nuclear plant in 1981," he added.

Hijack survivors leave Karachi

(Continued from page 1)

the hostess as Neerja Mishra, 22, and called her a heroine for her apparent role in warning the cockpit crew of the takeover.

Pakistani officials continued to retreat Sunday from any suggestion that Pakistani forces had stormed the plane. Officials said Friday night that commandos had been moved close to the plane in anticipation of the lights failing, but then said Saturday that security forces had not intervened until at least 10 minutes after the gunmen opened fire.

An official of the Bahraini Interior Ministry said in a statement that the passport found on one hijacker who, according to Pakistani security was Bahraini, could only have been forged.

The unidentified official told the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency that the Interior Ministry obtained details of the passport which was numbered 250257 and determined that passport was forged.

According to the Pakistani security officials in Karachi, one of the four hijackers carried a Bahraini passport, the other a Syrian passport and the third Palestinian travel documents. They said the nationality of the fourth hijacker was not known.

Embroidery exhibition within the activities of XXth International Congress of Administrative Sciences.

The Society of Inash Al Usra holds an exhibition for embroidered materials within the activities of the XXth International Congress of Administrative Sciences sponsored by the Arab Organisation of Administrative Sciences. The exhibition will be open for the public on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday the 8th, 9th, and 10th of September from 9:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m. at the entrance of Amman Hall at Al Hussein Youth City.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree appoints Kayed to Senate

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree was issued on Sunday appointing Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed as member of the Upper House of Parliament. Senate members are all appointed by Royal Decree and represent different regions of the Kingdom. Following the death of Mr. Radi Al Abdullah in July, there was a vacant seat in the 30-member House. Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi has called the members for a session on Thursday to review a number of draft laws. The meeting was first scheduled to be held on Tuesday.

Morocco asks Jordanians for visas

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanians wishing to travel to Morocco should acquire a visa in advance, according to a cable received by the Foreign Ministry from Jordan's embassy in Rabat. The cable said that Jordanians can obtain visas from the Moroccan Embassy in Amman.

Representatives visit industrial fair

AMMAN (Petra) — Representatives of commercial and industrial sectors, diplomatic missions in Amman and Arab and foreign delegations Sunday visited the third festival of national industries which opened in Amman on Aug. 11. The one-month festival will run until Sept. 11.

Man stabs another to death

AOABA (J.T.) — A 41-year-old man was stabbed to death following a heated argument with another man on Saturday, according to a report in Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. The victim, identified as AJS, was killed by MMA, both non-Jordanian Arabs, the report said. The man was immediately apprehended for questioning while the victim was taken to Princess Haya Hospital where he was pronounced dead upon arrival, the report added.

Ministry attends agri-extension seminar

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture has taken part in a seminar on agricultural extension which was held in California State University. Dr. Jalil Qamno, head of the agricultural extension service at the Ministry of Agriculture, attended the two-week meeting at which delegates from advanced and developing nations toured American farms and inspected agricultural extension activities.

JGA to hold conference on geology

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Geologists Association (JGA) has decided to organise a general conference for geologists in the middle of 1988 and delegates from various universities around the world will be invited to attend. JGA President Ali Abu Rabiha announced on Sunday. He said that the JGA board has set up a committee to prepare for the conference and to draw up an agenda. Mr. Abu Rabiha said that the board also decided to accept 12 new engineers as JGA members.

Prime Ministry reviewing draft law on contracting

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A new draft law on contracting, which organises and classifies local contractors into groups according to their activities and status, was recently forwarded to the Prime Ministry by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, a senior Jordanian official said on Sunday.

The draft law, according to the official, grants local contracting companies protection from foreign competition implementing national projects. It also classifies contracting offices into grades in accordance to their professional standard, said the official who spoke to the Jordan Times on the condition of anonymity.

The draft law will be studied by the Prime Ministry before it is passed for debate in both the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. The law is expected to be discussed during the fifth ordinary Parliament session, scheduled to begin on Oct. 1.

The official explained that the law was drafted in response to local contractor's complaints over "tough competition from similar foreign and Jordanian contracting companies, a lack of skilled contracting manpower, the high cost of contracting operations and an urgent need to control the 'overcrowded' sector."

"Reorganisation of this sector is badly needed," commented another official, who added that reputable and well-established contractors should stay and benefit from executing part of the projects included in the Kingdom's national development plan for 1986-1990, while "below average companies" have to be weeded out and should not be allowed to take part in building national projects.

He also added that the draft law will protect local contractors from foreign competition large-scale projects. "We have excellent local companies, but in the past non-Jordanian contracting companies have won numerous large projects in the Kingdom," said the official.

Arab experts pave the way for ministerial meeting on economic and political issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Arab ministers of finance, economy, trade and agriculture will take part in the 41st meeting of the Amman-based Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) which opens here on Tuesday. The ministers are expected to tackle economic, social and political matters and the question of food security in the Arab World and Jordan will be submitting a working paper on the Arab food security issue to the ministerial talks.

Working papers

To pave the way for the ministers' meeting, the CAEU on Sunday opened a two-day meeting attended by representatives of Arab countries and experts in agriculture, economy, finance and trade.

The delegates reviewed a CAEU report on following up the implementation of earlier resolutions as well as CAEU plans and activities which are to be submitted to the ministers at Tuesday's meeting. The experts and delegates also reviewed a CAEU report on world economic developments and their impact on Arab countries and also inter-cooperation among various Arab economic and political blocs. Also on the agenda is a study on the future of Arab economies until the year 2000, endorsing a joint Arab stand on industrialised nation's economic trade policies towards Third World countries, as well as loans obtained from international organisations and wealthier nations.

The question of Arab food security is also being discussed and several working papers have been prepared, to be reviewed by the delegates in the light of a report by the CAEU secretary general before being referred to the ministers on Tuesday.

The meetings are being attended by Arab League Assistant Secretary General Abdul Hassan Zalzal, who underlined the importance of these meetings which he said are designed to help Arab countries implement objectives contained in the Arab League's pact on economic strategies. More than 170 projects pertaining to Arab food programmes and agricultural production are to be discussed at the CAEU meetings in Amman, Dr. Zalzal added.

He said that the Arab nation's endeavours towards realising food security coincide with those being made by other countries and international organisations. These



Abdul Hassan Zalzal

meetings will focus attention on the fact that rich nations face the problem of food surpluses while Third World nations suffer from poverty and famine, he continued.

At present, the Arab World is going through a period of economic recession which warrants rationalisation in spending and austerity programmes on the part of governments and people, Dr. Zalzal added.

He said that the drop in the price of oil is perhaps the most difficult economic problem facing the Arabs at present as most Arab economies have been affected by the negative consequences of this price drop. The collapse in oil prices has been well planned by industrialised nations which use and need supplies of crude oil," Dr. Zalzal charged.

Khayyat, Senegalese envoy review bilateral ties

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and visiting Senegalese envoy Mustafa Al Sisi Sunday discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and cooperation in Islamic affairs. The Senegalese envoy paid tribute to the ties linking the two countries in various fields.

Dr. Khayyat promised to allocate scholarships for Senegalese students at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia (Islamic law) and at the ministry's Islamic Sciences College at the request of Mr. Sisi. The minister also pointed out Jordan's role in supporting the Arab inhabitants in the occupied territories and the Kingdom's efforts to bolster their steadfastness. Dr. Khayyat also explained the ministry's supervisory role over Islamic holy

places. The Senegalese envoy extended an invitation to the minister to take part in an Islamic conference which will be held in Senegal next year.

Mr. Sisi arrived here Saturday with a message for His Majesty King Hussein from Senegalese President Abdou Diouf dealing with bilateral relations and means of promoting Afro-Arab cooperation.

Badran extends his intricate and flawless artwork to a wider range of artefacts

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The work of a good craftsman never fails to please. The hand-worked objects they produce impart a certain endless satisfaction which, along with an admiration for the deftness of the hands which worked them, is renewed everytime one sees them. This is certainly the case with the work of Jamal Badran whose intricately painted glassware, lampshades and parchment paintings, along with much else, is currently on show at the British Council.

Although one time only appreciated by a few, Mr. Badran's talents are now well-known and his work is in great demand. One of the objects many enjoy and one which shows his multiple abilities are the parchment lampshades on their olive wood stands. On the cheery, yellow surfaces of the shades, Mr. Badran paints with a surety of line and form — there is no margin for error in any of his work — that is staggering in its perfection, intertwining floral patterns. Inspired by old Islamic designs, these define the edges of the shade, while the centres are filled with the geometrical shapes of Kufic calligraphy or with more elaborate floral designs or with best of all leaping gazelles, long eared rabbits, curving fish and birds on the wing whose antecedents must be Byzantine mosaics. The hand lathed stands echo the designs of the shades although Mr. Badran sometimes leaves portions free of design in order to let the natural beauty of the varnished wood glow through.

Mr. Badran is perhaps even better known for his hand painted glassware. Choosing well made long necked vases, small jars and rounded bowls in browns, greens, blues and delicious turquoise from the Hebron glass factory, Mr. Badran covers them with the Islamic floral designs which gleam with golden touches and

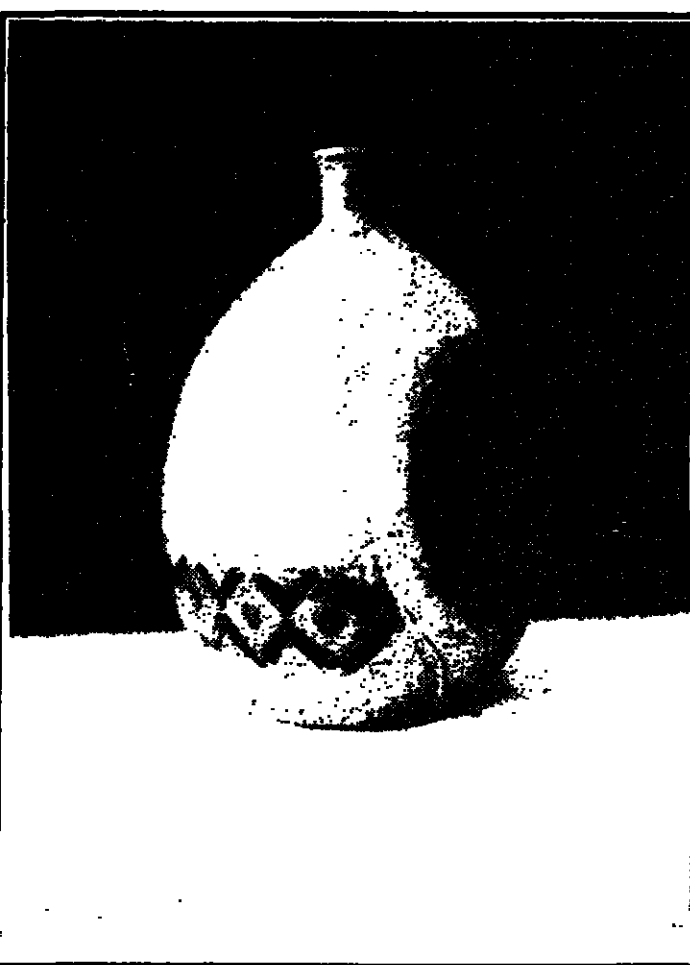
calligraphy which enhances and accentuates the vessel's shape.

A slightly new departure for Mr. Badran are his vertical parchment paintings. The slender proportions of these pieces are extremely pleasing as are the intricate designs with which they are covered. Particularly attractive are the deep red backgrounds behind some of the floral patterns and the gold leaf work over which Mr. Badran has painted black spiralling rose tendrils. As with all his work, one is struck time and again by the artist's ability to produce these tiny, superbly detailed designs which, with no leeway for error, are flawless.

"My hand has become so sure and steady that I can paint these designs as another person would write," Mr. Badran told the Jordan Times.

Along with studies for mosaic work, the exhibition is completed with a few of Mr. Badran's own private collection of plaster moulds he has made for the decoration of mosque ceilings, cast metal work, lathe work and hand bound books on whose heavy leather covers have been tooled leaping gazelles. Mr. Badran also designed and made the marbled fly leaves of the books and applied gold leaf around the edges of the pages. Unusually, the gold leaf itself has been embossed with another fine floral pattern — Mr. Badran being the first to do this.

Mr. Badran, who taught crafts for several years, is currently in the process of writing a book which shows step by step the techniques he employs to produce his wares. His next big exhibition will be in 1988 in London at the invitation of the Festival of the Islamic World who were so pleased, are many here in Amman, to see that there was still someone keeping the old Islamic crafts very much alive. The exhibition runs until Thursday, September 11.



An earlier work by Jamal Badran. Hand painted jug (J.T. file photo)

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Location: Near the Marriott Hotel.
Call: 645142

ARABIC FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

The Language Centre at the University of Jordan announces that courses in Modern Standard Arabic for speakers of other languages will commence on September 20, and will last for 16 weeks. Two programmes will be offered:

1. The intensive programme in which classes meet in the morning for 20 hours per week, Saturday-Wednesday. The fee for these courses is JD 140 per term.
2. The regular programme in which classes meet 6 hours per week (5:30-7:10 Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday). The fee for these courses is JD 50 per term.

Those interested please call at the Language Centre for registration between 7-20 September 1986.

AAU organises programme of seminars at Arab universities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman based Association of Arab Universities (AAU) plans to hold seminars at the University of Jordan, Yarmouk University and Aleppo University in Syria from now until the end of 1986, AAU Secretary General Mohammad Dugheim said here Sunday.

Speaking in an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Dugheim said that one of these seminars, on teaching physics in Arab universities, is to start in Amman on Monday.

This seminar will tackle teaching physics students in their

first university year, preparing joint research projects by specialists in physics and exchanging expertise and information in physics-related affairs, Dr. Dugheim explained.

He said that the AAU will hold a seminar on renewable energy at Aleppo University between Sept. 29 and Oct. 2 to be attended by experts and researchers in energy resources and he added that it is organising a seminar for deans of research centres in Arab universities at Yarmouk University between Oct. 26 and Oct. 28.

Public works official inspects roads in Mafraq district

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works is currently carrying out projects worth JD 15.5 million in the Mafraq region and these projects will benefit Mafraq and neighbouring villages, Mr. Khalaf Hawwari, the ministry's under secretary said here Sunday.

Speaking during an inspection tour of roads which are under construction in the region, Mr. Hawwari said that roads being built in Mafraq district are bound to serve the villages and the eastern and northern badia areas which are largely inhabited by bedouins.

Among the projects, he said, is a new Zarqa-Mafraq road that reaches as far north of the Syrian border and which has a length of 52 kilometres. This project is expected to cost JD 10 million, he said, and will be well underway during 1986 and completed during the coming year. Mr. Hawwari explained.

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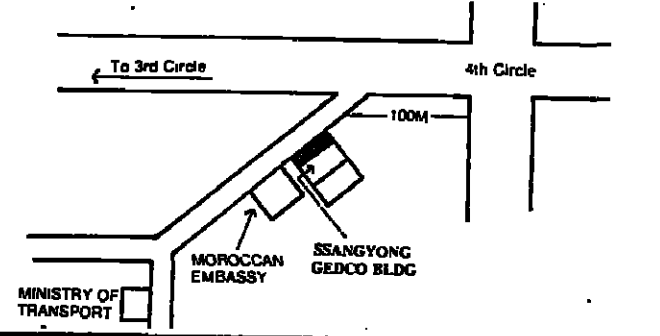
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Muscle-flexing won't work

VIOLENCE has raised its ugly head again. The world is aghast with the cruel slaughter of 21 Jews in Istanbul by unknown terrorists on Saturday. A day earlier, 15 passengers on board a Pan American jet, parked on the Karachi airport tarmac, were shot dead by their would-be hijackers. In both these cases the identity and motives of the terrorists have not been clearly established. However, these outrageous attacks on innocent people are to be universally condemned and the culprits should be brought to book.

It is significant to note that these attacks took place last week while the U.S. envoy, Mr. Vernon Walters, was stomping through the West European capitals to warn U.S. allies of an imminent danger of terrorist actions in West Germany and at the same time to rally support for a tougher policy of economic sanctions against Libya in retaliation for its alleged advocacy of "international terrorism." Here one thing is clear. Mr. Walters' predilection based on U.S. intelligence reports came nearly true with two terrorist attacks, one close to, and the other several thousand kilometres away, from the borders of West Germany.

It is also predictably made clear that the two terrorist attacks, apart from their horrific details, would certainly add enormous grist to the U.S. and Israeli propaganda mill that might ultimately link these crimes with one country or another of their choice, making it a convenient scapegoat for U.S.-Israeli military aggrandisement.

Last April the U.S. attacked Libya with an avowed aim to deter international terrorism, killing in the process... any innocents in Tripoli and Benghazi. The U.S. attack came in the wake of a terrorist attack on a West German discotheque which the U.S. intelligence connected the Libyan leader, Col. Qadhafi. The U.S. military attack was widely condemned, and it even elicited critical comments from most allies of the U.S. who voiced their own views about countering terrorism.

It has been observed that Mr. Walters' mission to the West European capitals was precisely intended to get the cooperation of the NATO allies for a second military strike against Libya as the U.S. administration began to claim that it had found fresh evidence of Col. Qadhafi's finger in some terrorist groups planning to attack U.S. interests in Europe. But Mr. Walters' mission seems to have foundered, judging from the lukewarm response he received from the European leaders, most of whom did not deem fit to endorse the U.S. line of dealing with the entire question of terrorism.

The U.S. attack on Libya in April did not serve, as it intended, to deter terrorist actions such as those happened last week. Contemplating military attacks on countries, suspected of having a hand in such terrorist acts, will certainly not put an end to terrorism around the world. On the contrary, the U.S. will be perceived again as a superpower needlessly engaged in muscle-flexing exercises in order to intimidate smaller nations. This would further strain its relations with not only Third World nations — which have squarely at their non-aligned summit at Harare condemned U.S. attack on Libya as nothing less than "state terrorism" — but also with its own allies in Europe who would not be too keen on solving the European aspect of the terrorist problem in an American way.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Terrorism begets terrorism

WE ARE against terrorism in all forms and anywhere. It should be said that it was the Israeli aggressors who started practising terrorism in our region some decades ago, and were condemned by us then. The Israelis planted bombs in Jerusalem under the British mandate, assassinated an international emissary, committed crimes against the villages of Deir Yassin and Qibya killing women and children, and they committed a massacre in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon. All the while the Arabs had been condemning terrorism and Israel's practices, and warning of the dangers inherent in such actions. The Israelis have now developed their terrorism by continuing to reject all bids for peace in the Middle East, raiding innocent population in Arab countries like Iraq, Tunisia and Lebanon, and are pursuing organised acts of terror against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab lands. By its evil doing Israel has thus poisoned the Middle East region by planting the spirit of terrorism in its midst, and by killing and displacing women and children. While committing its terrible actions, Israel has at the same time been dreaming that its Arab victims will eventually raise an olive branch and act like angels. But Israel has now started reaping the fruit of its work, and the bitter harvest was represented in the attacks on the American airliner in Karachi and the synagogue in Istanbul. Terrorism can only beget terrorism and the lack of peace is bound to bring to this region further bloodshed and violence which Israel has taught the Arabs for long years.

Al Dustour: Israel gets new tools

IN THE wake of the two terrorist attacks in Karachi and Istanbul we ask who can benefit from such actions and what cause such crimes can serve? We have in mind the new crusade directed against the Arab and Islamic nations and led by the United States. There is no doubt that the two fresh attacks can lend further strength to this campaign in the West directed against all what is Arab and Muslim. Also, we do not doubt the fact that the new onslaught and the acts of terrorism are aimed at paving the way for further aggression against the Arabs and Muslims, and further attempts to sow seeds of division among their ranks. Forces hostile to the Arabs and Muslims are desperately trying to separate the two nations and deprive the Arabs of support and assistance they can get from Islamic countries. We are certain that such terrorist attacks as those that were committed in Pakistan and Turkey can never serve the just causes of the Arabs, and therefore they must be directed to serve the interests of our common enemies.

Sawt Al Shaab: Plot against Muslims

THE PERPETRATORS of the hijacking of the American airliner in Karachi and those who attacked the synagogue in Istanbul have aimed at undermining the strong ties between the Arab and Islamic nations. The enemies of the Arab and Islamic worlds have first tried to cause a breach in the ranks of Arabs and Muslims through the ongoing conflict between Iraq and Iran — two Islamic nations — and having failed to do that, they are now trying to stir trouble for the Arabs in Islamic countries like Pakistan and Turkey. The conspiracy being hatched against the Arabs and Muslims by their common enemies is tantamount to the conflict in the Gulf, and could seriously breach the ranks of unity between Arabs and Muslims unless all acts of terrorism are contained. This conspiracy is being helped by Iran's rulers who have opened the door for plots by continuing to shun peace, and who have continued their aggression on a neighbouring Islamic nation.

Issues of fact and decision making

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

YOU can bet your last filth that whenever two persons with average intelligence differ in judgment, over a situation or another, the difference of opinion is more likely than not attributable and traceable to the differing sets of "facts" accessible or available to them. "Facts" are often subjective especially if the situation which is examined is not of a scientific nature and the "issues of fact" related to it are neither absolute nor objective. This proposition would apply particularly to subjects related to political analysis and judgment.

If mankind can share, for example, the same quality and quantity of information on the super-power nuclear capabilities, then man can determine more functionally which superpower is more at fault and therefore more obligated to redress the nuclear threat that looms over mankind everywhere. Likewise, if all humanity can acquire a cosmic perspective on the basis of the availability of the same quality information on the position and status of our small planet in the cosmos, then one would anticipate that man, or at least leader-man, would view his provincial concerns and pursuits with more humility, reason and humanism. As it is, each nationality on the

planet Earth could regard itself as the centre of the universe and its people as the only truly "chosen race" to whom the rest of humanity owes their allegiance, loyalty and respect.

These preambular propositions are particularly relevant and applicable to the Middle East and its conflicts. To be sure, the Middle East is a hotbed of conflicts of various kinds and natures. Although one of them is the Arab-Israeli conflict, it is not by all means the only one. Again, depending on the "facts" available to the examiner, there could be two schools of thought on the general Middle East ailment: One school of thought would view the Israeli threat as the consequence of the other Middle Eastern conflicts, i.e., the political and socio-economic ailments plaguing the Middle East; while the other school of thought would argue the opposite and maintain that the Israeli threats is the cause of all the other conflicts and ailments in the Middle East. In this context, one could reasonably conclude that if the same quality and quantity information is available to the two schools of thought, the gap between them could indeed be bridged, if not eliminated totally; and perhaps a third school of thought would be

born championing the thesis that both schools of thoughts are relatively true and that the accurate diagnosis lies somewhere in the middle.

Likewise, the redress of the "Israeli threat" has become subject to all sorts of speculation and diagnosis ranging from the call for total war to the plea for total peace. One would suspect again in this context also that the variance in opinion and judgment is again due to the variance of the "issues of fact" which are available to the opinionated among us.

Thus, when a government in the Middle East operates on a set of "facts" not available to the other components of its nationhood, the roots of dissension and division are firmly implanted in the soil of the nation as a whole. What ensues is a divided nation and the consequential deprivation of the government in question of its legitimate mandate to negotiate on behalf of its people over an issue of war and peace and make lasting commitments on their behalf for generations to come.

In contemporary nation-states, governments of all shades and colours view as their legitimate prerogative to keep state secrets from its people in order to formulate and pursue its policies.

domestic and foreign, in a functional and coherent manner. The degree of secrecy is inversely proportional to the degree of democracy, i.e., the more democracy, the less secrecy; and vice-versa, the less democracy the more secrecy.

However, with regard to certain decision making affecting the whole nation, for generations to come it would seem wiser for government and people alike, to let the people and their representatives share the same quality information with the government and consequently involve the people in the process of decision making. Warring nations normally reject deals on peace agreements which are devoid of popular support. Obviously, the Arab World, governments and people alike, is a divided house on how to address the "Palestinian conflict" and bring it to an acceptable resolution. On the peoples level, one would suspect that the division is due primarily to lack of uniform dissemination of quality information past and present on the Palestinian conflict. The Arab peoples, especially the Palestinians, are bombarded with conflicting versions of the "issues of fact" related to the Palestinian conflict by their respective

governments or leaders. One governmental or political source would argue that salvation lies in the attainment of strategic parity between the Arabs and Israel, others would submit that the proposition of strategic parity is of a theoretical value and devoid of pragmatic consequence. Still others would maintain that the Arabs are way behind the Israelis in technology, both mechanical and intellectual, and the gap is unbridgeable. Yet others would demur by arguing the opposite. There are always those who remind the Arab peoples everywhere that whereas the USA is behind Israel, the Arab Nation is perpetually denied the opportunity to win a war with Israel. In confusion, the Arab peoples anchor their convictions on the shores of their respective political leaders in a haphazard and emotional manner. Arab academicians and political scientists would submit that the Arab house is therefore not in order and that only through the establishment of viable democratic institutions in the Arab World could one harness the Arab potential to the optimum.

More pragmatic politicians would demur by arguing that the Arab stage of political development requires an

enlightened firm political leadership to steer the Arab ship between the tidal waves of grave challenges and risks.

So, how could Arab humanity escape dissension and division and save itself from utter confusion? The route to the redress of this Arab calamity is long, tortuous and fraught with danger. But one thing is as clear as the summer sun of Jordan, namely, the first base in the process of concerted corrective action is the free and responsible dissemination of "essential and vital facts" by governments, institutions and the press to the people with a view to giving them a real opportunity to share in the decision making in an enlightened manner. For this purpose, it is suggested that Arab governments establish permanent national "think tank" groups to conceptualise on the ways and means to redress this "fact hunger" experienced by Arabs everywhere. Perhaps also the League of Arab states could also establish an "inter-Arab think tank" group to submit ideas and opinions to the Arab countries on this and other vital issues affecting the greater Arab Nation. To be truly effective, the think tank groups, national or regional must have allegiance only to the truth.

Middle East is still smouldering

Gennady Musaelyan

The following article is abridged from the Aug. 14 issue of *Sovetskaya Rossiya*, the Moscow-based newspaper.

NEWS agencies keep reporting ever new outrages committed by Israeli invaders on captured Arab territories — the West Bank of the Jordan River, the Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon and the Golan Heights. More oil is poured on the flames by U.S. and Israeli military and diplomatic manoeuvres aimed at splitting and intimidating the Arabs, as well as by terrorism which is rapidly spreading under conditions of instability. Finally, in its seventh year is the Iran-Iraq war, which has claimed almost a million lives and turned into ash vast material and cultural values. All Baghdad's attempts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis, as well as the latest proposal made by President Saddam Hussein, have been rejected by Tehran out of hand.

It is obvious that lack of settlement in the Arab East jeopardises peace all over the planet and is hindering the improvement of the political climate internationally. However, Washington, relying on its strategic ally — Tel Aviv — under cover of pompous demagoguery about the prime necessity to settle regional conflicts, under cover of state speculation about the "hand of Moscow" and the USSR's penetration into the Middle East, is continuing its previous policy, which is aimed not at diffusing conflict situations, but at their use in the framework of American global policy.

The visit by US Vice-President George Bush to Israel, Jordan and Egypt is another confirmation of this. The high-ranking American emissary did not bring any positive proposals with him. He rejected the idea of an international conference on the settlement of

the Middle East conflict and declared against the creation of an independent Palestinian state. At the same time Bush tried to suppress growing anti-American sentiments in the region and give an impulse to Reagan's plan — the abortive continuation of the Camp David process — and push the Arab countries to separate deals with Israel.

The vice-president wanted to please the pro-Israeli lobby in the United States and to demonstrate Washington's backing for Tel Aviv's aggressive course. He visited Jerusalem, even though the U.S. does not recognise it as Israel's capital de jure. He promised Tel Aviv access to funds set up by NATO member-countries. Together with Defence Minister Rabin and chief of the general staff of the armed forces Levy, he was shown the first prototype of the Israeli submarine Dolphin, which is capable of carrying sixteen missiles and which is to enter service shortly. Lastly, he attended the ceremony of installing an agreement between the U.S.A. and Israel, under which in the southern part of the Negev desert 16 high-powered radio repeaters will be built to relay American programmes beamed at the U.S.S.R. and East European countries. These repeaters are intended for the West's centres of ideological subversion — the Voice of America, Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe.

Significantly enough, the Bush tour of the Middle East coincided in time with manoeuvres by U.S. naval forces in the Mediterranean near the Libyan coast and the Gallant Eagle-86 military exercises in the Mojave desert in southern California where conditions are almost identical with the Middle East. The latter involved 35,000 servicemen subordinated to the so-called Central Command of the U.S. armed forces charged with police

functions in the Middle East and in Africa. An official Pentagon spokesman with martinet-like bluntness declared that the U.S. military establishment wanted to check on its ability to move troops to hot spots of the Middle East region.

Full responsibility for the aggravation of the situation in the Arab East is also borne by America's lieutenant — Israel. As before, its foreign policy is based on strength, further consolidation of strategic cooperation with the U.S., and a tough anti-Arab stand. When the meeting between Premier Shimon Peres and Morocco's King Hassan II, which caused a storm of protest in the Arab World, showed the futility of separate deals, Israel took up sabre-rattling again.

After failing to break down the resistance of Lebanese patriots in the central parts of the so-called "security zone" in the south of the country, the invaders and their puppets from General Lahad's separatist army, are now expanding their punitive actions. Numerous peaceful settlements have been shelled by artillery. As a result, many houses are demolished and there are human casualties. Israeli air pirates, in their turn, made a bombing raid on Palestinian refugee camps east of Beirut. Tel Aviv has tightened the naval blockade of the entire south Lebanon coast, sealing the vital ports of Tyre and Sidra, with the result that thousands of fishermen, port and transport workers are now without jobs.

Powerful explosions continue to shake Beirut where terrorist acts have killed or wounded hundreds of people.

Continuing to exacerbate the situation in Lebanon, Tel Aviv has launched another campaign of threats against Damascus.

Now no one doubts that with Washington's connivance Tel Aviv is laying claims to the role of a nuclear power. That is why any outbreak of hostilities in the

Middle East may bring confrontation to a level when confronting sides would be ready to resort to nonconventional types of arms, that is, to nuclear, chemical, bacteriological and other mass destruction weapons. Moreover, U.S. officials have repeatedly stated that there is a possibility of using nuclear weaponry for defending American imperialism's "vital interests" in the Middle East. Besides, the nuclear potential of the ships of the U.S. naval forces constantly plying the Mediterranean, Red and Arabian Seas is diversified and massive, and many planes based on U.S. ships can carry nuclear weapons.

As pointed out by Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, in the Statement of January 15, 1986, the Soviet Union's goal "is not to whip up regional conflicts but to eliminate them through collective efforts on a just basis, and the sooner the better." The U.S.S.R. spares no effort to attain this noble goal. For instance, during the visit by President Francois Mitterrand of France to Moscow the necessity of convening an international peace conference on the Middle East was stressed and a proposal made to form a Preparatory Committee with the participation of the five Permanent Members of the U.N. Security Council for organising the work of such a forum. The Soviet government has sent a letter to the U.N. Secretary-General in which strong support was given to the proposal by non-aligned countries about turning the Mediterranean area into a zone of durable peace and cooperation.

Our world has entered such a phase of development when to avoid a solution to the Middle East problem means to criminally disregard the destiny of not only the peoples of that region but of all mankind.

Mitterrand sheds power, wins popularity under cohabitation

By John Morrison
Reuter

PARIS — Six months after a general election which stripped him of his parliamentary majority, President Francois Mitterrand is basking in a new-found popularity and looks more than ever set for re-election.

When Mitterrand was forced to appoint his Gaullist rival Jacques Chirac as prime minister after the March 16 election, it looked for a while like a political humiliation.

After five years of undiluted power, the head of state suddenly found himself left with only the trimmings — in severe danger of becoming what he himself termed "a cut-price president."

But Mitterrand has managed to turn his apparent weakness into a newfound strength, making an astonishing comeback in public esteem which is giving nightmares to his opponents.

When French politicians came back from their vacations for the traditional early-September return known here as the *rentrée*, they found a shock opinion poll which showed that Mitterrand would easily defeat any rightwing candidate if a presidential election were held now. The election is due early in 1988.

The poll in *Le Point* magazine showed Mitterrand leading all his potential challengers by at least 10 points in a first-round contest, and defeating Jacques Chirac and Raymond Barre by 10 points and eight points respectively in a hypothetical second-round runoff.

The figures also showed Chirac and Barre would lose, but by a smaller margin, if pitted against Socialist presidential hopeful Michel Rocard, one of the leading candidates to succeed Mitterrand on the left.

Mitterrand, who will be 70 on October 26 and appears to be in good health, has been urged publicly by leading Socialists to stand again but has so far not announced any decision.

His only public comments on the issue have been characteristically ambiguous: "People will have to learn to do without me one of these days... fourteen years is too long, 12 would be better."

So far no French president, not even Charles de Gaulle, has served two full terms of seven years — a period widely considered to be too long.

Another seven-year term beginning in 1988 would take Mitterrand up to 1995, when he will be 79 — a daunting prospect even for a man who appears in the best of health.

Whether or not he chooses to stand again, Mitterrand has already used the period since March to rebuild his political image and demonstrate his well-proven ability to bounce back out of trouble.

Leaving Chirac to bear the brunt of popular grumbling over unemployment and the sluggish performance of the French economy, Mitterrand has headed 'for the high ground.

He has spent much of the summer criss-crossing France on a series of surprise trips, popping up at the hospital bedside of injured

Formula One driver Jacques Laffite one week and visiting the families of drowned lifeboatmen in Brittany the next.

Mitterrand's summer outings also included a flight in the cockpit of a Canadian firefighting plane, paying homage to the pilots battling against forest fires on the Riviera.

"It may be easy to visit the Canadian pilots, but no other president ever did it," comments rightwing columnist Dominique Jamet, who says Mitterrand is now slipping into the role of a popular monarch.

Evidence from the polls suggests Mitterrand's popularity may slip again if he abandons this non-partisan role, giving up the job of referee in order to rejoin the political game.

His approval rating dipped by eight points after he refused in July to sign a Chirac government decree defining terms for the privatisation of state-owned companies.

He may refuse his signature again this month when Chirac presents a decree drawing new boundaries for the 577 national assembly constituencies. Socialist Party leaders say the new electoral map is designed to give an inbuilt advantage to the Gaullists.

A new rebuff by Mitterrand would force Chirac to swallow his pride, return to parliament and have his decree passed as a law. Neither man wants to risk being blamed by the voters for provoking a crisis that would bring their fragile "cohabitation" to a premature end.

While Mitterrand could call an early presidential election by resigning suddenly, the move would be a risky one, and the heat of state would have to vacate the Elysee Palace and become a simple candidate for the duration of the campaign.

He may well calculate that if he stays in office his own popularity will continue to soar while that of the Chirac government will decline.

Mitterrand may also calculate that as the date of the presidential election looms closer, the strains and rivalries within Chirac's rightwing coalition will increase.

Chirac, for different reasons, also feels that time is on his side. He is considering tax cuts in the 1987 budget, to produce an economic recovery next year that will produce more jobs.

An upturn in the economy would improve the outlook for Chirac's own presidential ambitions for 1988 and give him time to reinforce his image as the right's best hope of recapturing the Elysee.

But the Gaullist leader faces a dangerous rival in the figure of Raymond Barre, currently observing a self-imposed vow of silence on the issue of the day.

Barre, who opposes cohabitation, is biding his time and waiting for the moment to take the offensive against both Chirac and Mitterrand in the presidential race.

Despite his absence from the public eye since March, Barre still outscores Chirac in the latest poll as the right's best candidate to stand against Mitterrand.

Rebels and troops in stand-off at Jaffna fort

By Dexter Cruze
The Associated Press

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — This city's old, Dutch-built fort, separated from the rest of Jaffna by a "no-man's land" which soldiers think is mined, stands as a government outpost deep inside rebel-held territory.

Reporters invited on a rare visit to the fort by the army this week were brought in by a helicopter that made a steep, fast landing to avoid fire. The reporters were allowed out of the fort.

The Sri Lankan soldiers and police stationed here, and in seven other camps on the northern Jaffna peninsula, are hemmed in by Tamil rebels who have taken virtual control of the region in their three-year war for an independent homeland.

The struggle pits the Tamils against the Sinhalese, who are the country's majority.

The traditionally Tamil-populated Jaffna peninsula was once a vital part of the island, supplying the bulk of Sri Lanka's onions, chilies, potatoes and tobacco and some of its tastiest mangoes and grapes.

Today farmers are unable to get their crops to market. The 1,025-square-kilometre peninsula is cut off at Elephant Pass, the narrow strip of land joining it to the rest of the island.

Sri Lankan soldiers manning the watchtowers in Jaffna's old fort keep a wary eye on the abandoned, shell-pocked

buildings and the sandbagged bunkers at the city's outskirts, about 500 metres away.

Almost daily, Tamil rebels infiltrate the "no man's land" around the 280-year-old, Dutch-built fort to fire mortars and rifles at the troops.

"We retafate only when the militants come too close for comfort," said Major Gallbake Ariyaratne. "They retreat."

Brigadier Gerry de Silva, who commands government forces on the peninsula, said attacks on the army around Jaffna intensified during the past three weeks as peace negotiations progressed slowly in the capital, Colombo.

"The attacks were a clear attempt not only to confine troops to their camps but also an indication the Tamil terrorists do not want the negotiations," de Silva said.

He said no troops had left any Jaffna camps recently in order not to upset the talks between President Junius R. Jayewardene and a delegation from the Tamil United Liberation Front.

But the rebel attacks in past weeks led to heavy artillery and mortar fire by the army. A dozen people were killed in Jaffna and nearby towns.

Residents said nine of the victims were civilians, and the Tamil negotiators protested the deaths. But de Silva pointed to rebel positions at the edge of the city and said:

"Casualties among civilians cannot be avoided in fighting."

My troops have no choice but to retaliate to safeguard the camps."

The scars of the long and brutal ethnic war are visible in the pockmarked walls of the fort and the hulks of buildings on Jaffna's outskirts.

The occasional rattle of automatic rifle fire or thump of a mortar passes with little notice by the troops and appears to cause no panic in Jaffna.

Inside the fort, some off-duty troops kicked a soccer ball. De Silva said morale was high. Soldiers joked about strolling into Jaffna for a drink and boasted how they could seize the city with little difficulty.

Maj. Ariyaratne maintained the army could overrun the rebels in Jaffna at will.

"No problem at all," he said. "But we are forced to sit here until orders are issued."

The reality of an all-out battle for Jaffna might be quite different, however.

Last spring, a high-ranking government official warned of a major offensive against the rebels, and the army started moving troops out of the fort. But when the rebels mounted stiff resistance, army officials said it was merely a rotation of forces.

De Silva estimated there were 5,000 armed rebels on the Jaffna peninsula. He said he could not reveal the exact number of troops for security reasons, but there appeared to be about 500 troops and police at the fort.

Ammunition factories

The rebels are believed to have set up factories in Jaffna to manufacture the mortars and grenades they use against the army.

De Silva maintains that the rebels are not yet strong enough to survive without a supply line from outside.

"If gun running from South India is curbed," he said, "then quite a lot of the problems in the north will end."

Fishermen no longer sail from the peninsula because of a navy blockade designed to prevent weapons being smuggled the 33 kilometres from southern India, where the major rebel groups have their exile headquarters.

All of the soldiers and police interviewed were Sinhalese. Tamil rebels claim discrimination for the Sinhalese prompted their battle for a separate Tamil homeland. Tamils make up 18 per cent of the island's 16 million population.

At the war's outbreak in 1983, the peninsula had a population of 830,000. Today, because many people have fled, the number is uncertain.

Almost all of the peninsula's 4,000 Sinhalese residents are gone while many Tamils have moved in from other parts of the island.

More than 200,000 Sri Lankans, most of them Tamils, have fled the island for India or other countries.

French team's excavations shed new light on lifestyle and settlements of Nabataeans

Text and Photos
By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

IT is perhaps ironic that though the Nabataean capital city of Petra is so well known and admired, we have correspondingly little verifiable information about the everyday life of the Nabataean people in the hundreds of small villages, hamlets and farmsteads that comprised the rich hinterland of their kingdom.

Seeking to help rectify this gap in Jordanian archaeology, a French team headed by Dr. Francois Villeneuve, of the Institut Français d'Archaeologie du Proche Orient (French Archaeological Institute of the Near East), has recently completed two seasons of excavations at the Nabataean settlement now known as Khirbet edh-Dharieh ('the ruin of the tomb').

Khirbet edh-Dharieh is located on the east bank of the Wadi Laban, about seven kilometres south of the better known Nabataean temple of Khirbet Tannur. Though known to modern scholars since it was first visited by the British explorers Irby and Mangels in 1818, followed by Aloise Musil, Nelson Glueck, Father Jean Savignac of France and most recently Dr. Burton MacDonald of Canada, it remained undisturbed, and therefore largely unstudied, until Dr. Villeneuve and his French and Jordan colleagues carried out a surface survey of the site in 1983. Dr. MacDonald's survey of the Wadi Hasa and the Wadi Laban, in particular, documented the intensity of occupation during the Nabataean period. This, in turn, heightened Dr. Villeneuve's interest in the Wadi Laban as a region that might shed new light on the process of Nabataean sedentarisation.

From surface observations alone, Dr. Villeneuve and his predecessors recorded the tumbled stones of a substantial building, thought to be a Nabataean temple because of its layout and its very delicately carved decorative stonework, the

remains of underground tombs, and traces of buildings that were thought to be the remains of the Nabataean village on the site. The pottery sherds throughout the site also indicated its continued use, or re-use, in the Roman, Byzantine and Islamic periods.

A few hundred metres west of the village/temple complex, Dr. Villeneuve's team identified signs of human activity in the area hundreds of years before the Nabataean period. Pottery sherds from the Early Bronze and Iron ages were collected from an antiquities site now known as Khirbet ed-Deir, and a small sondage exposed some ancient wall remains that have not been precisely dated yet.

The excavations at Khirbet edh-Dharieh were launched with two main aims: to document everyday life and culture in a typical Nabataean rural settlement, and therefore to learn more about the process by which the Nabataeans made the transition from a nomadic to a settled people in the second half of the first millennium B.C.; and to reconstruct how such rural Nabataean settlements were re-used during subsequent periods.

The two seasons of excavations, in 1984 and 1985, have shed new light on both of these points, while uncovering architectural remains and beautiful decorative stonework that provides archaeologists with a new glimpse of yet another aspect of Nabataean art and talent (not to mention a fine picnic spot, conveniently located alongside the King's Highway, between Karak and Tafleh).

The use and re-use of the area from the Early Bronze to the Byzantine periods — spanning over 3,000 years — are probably due to the plentiful water supplies in the immediate vicinity, which were exploited to irrigate the area's rich farmland. There are four springs within 900 metres of the site, though during the Nabataean period, when hydrological technology was highly developed, the inhabitants of Khirbet edh-Dharieh carved

and built a six-kilometre-long stone canal that brought water by gravity from a cluster of springs.

The site of Khirbet edh-Dharieh measures about 400 by 200 metres, and includes several different terraces lying between 25 to 55 metres above the Wadi Laban, at an altitude of 700 metres.

The most prominent building on the site, visible from the King's Highway, is the Nabataean temple, located within an enclosure of 115 by 45 metres on the lowest terrace. Just above it and to the south is the Nabataean village, and on slightly higher ground to the east is the cemetery.

One perplexing question that has not yet been satisfactorily answered is whether or not the village and the temple were contemporary, as logic would suggest. If they were, however, why was the village located on higher ground than the temple? Or, as Dr. Villeneuve suggests, did the village develop around the temple many years after the temple was first built?

It seems likely that there was a connection between the temple at Khirbet edh-Dharieh and the nearby Nabataean temple at Khirbet Tannur. As Dr. Villeneuve has suggested, the temple at Khirbet Tannur may have been the sacred "high place" of the area, while the temple at Khirbet edh-Dharieh was dedicated to the gods who were responsible for the Nabataeans' precious water sources.

Indeed, a Nabataean inscription at Tannur notes that at least part of the temple was built by "the chief of the Laban survivors," probably a reference to the water resources at Wadi Laban.

It is therefore reasonable, Dr. Villeneuve suggests, to view Tannur and Dharieh not as isolated sanctuaries, but rather as related, common temples of a rural population organised around the water resources of the Wadi Laban/Wadi Hasa area.

Coin and pottery evidence indicates the Khirbet edh-Dharieh temple was probably built during the 1st Century A.D., a date that is also supported by stylistic similarities between the carved stonework at Khirbet edh-Dharieh and other dated Nabataean temples.

The temple complex was defined by a temenos, or holy precinct, composed of two successive courtyards aligned on a north-south axis. The temple precinct was entered from the south, and the temple itself is located at the north end of the complex.

The inner courtyard immediately surrounding the temple was entered through two monumental entrances on the south and east sides. There was probably an open-air altar within this courtyard, similar to the arrangement at Petra's Qasr Al Bint, though it has not been uncovered to date.

The temple itself measures about 30 by 17 metres, and is built of limestone blocs. In some areas it still stands over three metres high, and the tumbled stones are all in the immediate vicinity, which would allow for an almost total reconstruction of the temple in the future.

The south facade, including the main entrance, was richly decorated with engaged columns and corner pilasters, Corinthian capitals, entablature, frieze, human busts, windows or niches, and carved stone panels. The panels are exceptionally rich in decorative material, including geometric patterns, floral motifs, and mythological and cultic scenes.

The latter include divinities within circles, dance scenes, winged lions framing an eagle, an eagle within a laurel crown supported by winged figures, small altars, Europa, and dance scenes. When these decorative scenes are fully reconstructed, Dr. Villeneuve told the Jordan Times in a recent interview, they will add a great deal to our knowledge of Nabataean cultic art because of their fine state of preservation.

The temple building is composed of three parts: the monumental entrance, an area just inside the entrance, and the innermost holy area with its raised podium. The raised square podium, 6.8 metres on each side and 2.3 metres high, was reached via two narrow staircases on its south side.

A narrow (75-centimetre-wide), U-shaped paved corridor surrounds three sides of the podium, which is also flanked by two smaller rooms. The podium area is also richly decorated with carved stonework with floral, geometric and animal motifs.

A small door on the west side of the corridor gave access to an underground crypt, measuring 2 by 2.25 metres and 1.7 metres high, whose roof was supported by an arch that remains intact to this day. In the Byzantine period, the crypt was used as a tomb, as we know from a blocking stone with a



Excavated area around podium of Nabataean temple, after the 1985 season, clearly showing the paved corridor.

carved Maltese cross within a circle that was used to seal the former Nabataean door that had become the entrance to the burial chamber.

The temple seems to have been in use as a Nabataean cultic building for less than a century, until it was destroyed by a fire sometime during the 1st Century A.D. It remained in use as a temple into the Roman period, though in the Byzantine and early Umayyad periods it seems to have served a domestic function, according to the artifacts discovered to date. It was finally abandoned for good after a fire in the Umayyad period, and was probably still standing into the 8th Century A.D.

It probably collapsed during an earthquake in the 8th Century, though there are some signs that the former temple was re-used briefly during the late Islamic period, perhaps during the Ayyubid/Mamluk era.

A Nabataean village

Immediately south of the temple precinct are the remains of a relatively large Nabataean village, also dating from the 1st Century A.D. The village covers an area of about 225 by 75 metres, arranged along a north-south axis.

Besides the remains of houses, the village also had a cistern, two olive presses and a water channel. At least 15 houses have been identified, ranging from small one- or two-room structures to larger complexes comprising several rooms arranged around a central courtyard.

The house nearest to the temple was excavated and revealed a complex of rooms around a large central courtyard measuring 35 metres square. A large kitchen in the south-west corner of the house was fully excavated, and produced much pottery from cooking vessels and stone and metal implements. The kitchen roof was supported on an arch. The room was in use until the early 4th Century A.D.

It is possible that this Byzantine village was the site named Ellebana in the early 5th Century A.D. Beersheba Edict, which listed the taxes collected from towns and villages throughout the area.

In another part of the village, an olive press was excavated within an open, rectangular building. The press seems to have gone out of use after a fire, and the Nabataean and Late Roman pottery suggests that this happened during the 2nd Century A.D.

About 50 metres east of the village, on the highest terrace of the site, is the Nabataean cemetery, which served the same purpose during the Roman and Byzantine periods. Many nefesh-style funerary stelae (pyramidal stone slabs) were



Some of the finely carved stonework at Khirbet edh-Dharieh



Remains of stone-cut water channel at Khirbet edh-Dharieh

found throughout the cemetery, which has suffered badly at the hands of ancient and modern tomb robbers. One fine stone stela was carved with the Semitic name "Alphi". Others had crosses carved on them during the Christian Byzantine period.

A large monumental Nabataean tomb was also excavated, composed of a collapsed superstructure whose roof was supported by an arch. Beneath it, and carved from the rock, was a subterranean tomb with 30 burial chambers.

The chambers were stacked one above the other in six compartments, with each burial covered by stone slabs. Some of

the earliest burials were in stone sarcophagi.

Five undisturbed burials at the bottom of the tomb each contained a body wrapped in a leather bag, facing west. Two of the deceased were buried with coins in their mouths, in these cases Trajanic drachmas issued between 112 and 116 A.D. Other funerary objects excavated from the tomb include Nabataean pottery, bronze and gold jewelry, a re-used 15th Century B.C. cylinder seal, bronze coins from the reign of Constantine II (issued between 346 and 361 A.D.), and many nails which suggest that the leather sac burials later gave way to wooden coffins.



Dr. Francois Villeneuve (left) and his colleagues excavating the cemetery of Khirbet edh-Dharieh (photo courtesy of IFPAO)

Randa Habib's

Passengers' perils

DRIVING towards Jerash, Irbid or any other region near the northern border is not exactly a pleasure anymore. Although the scenery is beautiful, especially now that the trees dotting the roadside have grown and bloomed, the road is still one of the most disturbing in the Kingdom. It is not so because of the state of the road itself, which is fairly good, but because of the recklessness of drivers.

Sometimes they overtake you on sharp curves, totally ignoring the distinct "no overtaking" signs, and endangering at least three cars in a row. Sometimes they suddenly decide to apply their brakes and pull over to buy lettuce or figs displayed along the roadside, triggering panic along the steadily moving line of other vehicles. Perhaps worst of all are the buses — those big comfortable vehicles that carry dozens of passengers to Jerash, Irbid or Damascus. Most of the time the drivers of these buses behave as if they were driving ambulances to hospital and the situation becomes critical when they speed well beyond the set limits.

We do find bad drivers everywhere, but when it comes to those behind the wheel of public transport vehicles it is time for tougher action. They should be made aware that they are responsible for the lives of dozens of people travelling with them and take better note of the fact that the casualty toll will be much higher when a bus is involved in an accident.

All drivers of public transport vehicles should undergo a strict and thorough selection process before they are entrusted with the lives of dozens of people. Extra safety tests should be carried out to ensure that the drivers are fully familiar with the dangers of speeding and recklessness. If any one of them already on the road is found violating safety regulations or ignoring road rules that are specified to protect passengers' lives, they should be brought to book. Since fines do not appear to be enough anymore, I propose that the driving licences of such negligent drivers should be suspended for a period of between six months and one year. The reason for such strict action is simple; those who endanger the lives of others through carelessness, recklessness or negligence should be not allowed to continue to do so.

Bad driving is something, but crazy driving is something else. Maybe when the authorities adopt tougher action against those who drive along the roads as if chased by the devil, we can contemplate a relaxed, easygoing long drive to the Dead Sea, Irbid, Ma'an or Aqaba.

How death came to Cameroun in a bubble of gas

Death came on a night wind in more than 1,700 people in north western Cameroun when a peaceful blue lake suddenly belched scalding gases. The following is a reconstruction, based on interviews with survivors and experts, of what happened that fateful night.

By Arthur Max
The Associated Press

WUM, Cameroun — Deep under Lake Nios, the earth belched. A bubble of scalding gas rose through the clear blue waters, collecting clay silt, and burst through the surface into a rainy, windy night.

In the grass-roofed huts of nearby villages, families were eating dinner or sleeping at about 9 p.m. that Thursday, Aug. 21, when death came with an acrid odor.

Within minutes, more than 1,700 people were dead, burned by steam and choked by deadly gases. Some collapsed as they tried to flee, ripping off their clothes because of the searing heat.

About two-thirds of the victims were in the village of Nios, a half-mile from the placid lake that local residents called "the good lake" because of its sweet water.

Hugging the valleys, the lethal gas moved eastward through the villages of Souboum and Cha, killing hundreds more people.

"I woke up with a terrible smell in my nostrils. It smelled like gunpowder," said Benjamin Dom, 27, who was interviewed later in the Wum hospital.

"I went outside and fell. My senses were wild. I felt pains in my head. My leg felt as if the blood was not moving," said Dom, a field hand from Souboum, 5 miles from Nios.

Philip Ngong, a 32-year-old carpenter, said he remembered gagging on air that smelled like exhaust fumes. He said he passed out and regained consciousness Saturday to find his entire family lying dead around him.

By midnight Thursday, an eerie silence had fallen over a 10-square-mile area in the rugged and remote north west province.

Herds of white longhorn cattle dropped dead in the hills. So did birds and wildlife. The once-crystalline waters of Lake Nios turned to reddish-brown sludge. Only the lush green grasslands and thick tropical forests looked untouched.

Corpses lay untended until the next day, when survivors who fled began returning to bury their dead. Local residents with city jobs began coming home for the weekend and spread word of the disaster.

It was Saturday, Aug. 23, that first reports of the disaster reached Yaounde, the capital 200 miles away.

Gideon Taka, who works at the Ministry of Information and Culture in the provincial capital of Bamenda, said he first learned of the disaster through a government office worker in Wum who left to visit his family in Nios.

The office worker found a dead antelope on the road and tied it to his motorcycle.

He thought it was his lucky day," said Taka. Later down the road, the cyclist found human bodies and began to feel dizzy. He returned to Wum, about 20 miles from Nios, without going into the village.

Taka said he reached the stricken area at 4 p.m. Saturday and rubbed his eyes in disbelief.

"Most people were dead. They suffered burns and those who were still surviving were coughing up blood," he said.

"We saw a lot of corpses in the road. Perhaps they thought they could survive by running away ... everyone was lying down, lying all

over. Most of them were in the yard. They came out of the rooms and tore their dresses because of the heat. They were mostly naked or half-naked," he said.

On Sunday, Aug. 24, an army task force moved in to clean up. U.S. ambassador Miles Frechette said it was only then "that we understood the enormity of what happened."

A grim-looking President Paul Biya blamed the high casualty toll on the weather. "The wind blew the gas to the villages and this is what brought death to the people," he said.

French volcanologist Francois Leguern called it the worst volcanic gas disaster ever recorded. Leguern and other experts said the fatal gas probably was carbon dioxide, which normally is harmless but in this case displaced all the oxygen.

In Vancouver, Washington, Donald Peterson, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said smaller amounts of other gases also may have been released, including sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide and carbon monoxide — all of which are poisonous.

Leguern compared the volcanic explosion to the cap blowing off a soda bottle, with bubbles of carbon dioxide flowing down the side.

"You have a layer of carbon dioxide. If people are inside the layer, they just fall down and die," he told the Associated Press.

A similar disaster occurred two years ago at Monoun Lake near Fombat, about 60 miles south of Nios, killing 37 people. Experts say such gas explosions are likely to recur, and little can be done to stop them.

A volcanic range arcs across the country from Mount Cameroun on the gulf of Guinea to the border with Chad in the north west. Hundreds of lakes have formed in volcanic craters.

Humid tropical heat meant bodies of the victims would decompose quickly and raised fears of an epidemic, said Lt. Gen. James Pawtaw, the commander of the army cleanup operation.

"We buried them near their houses, as close as we could to where they fell. The state of some of them, it was difficult to touch them," Pawtaw said. He pointed to a new grave in the yard of a ramshackle two-room hut. "Here I buried eight people yesterday," he said.

But three days after the army arrived, it had not begun to deal with thousands of cattle carcasses covering the hills.

The government released its first statement Sunday, Aug. 24, saying 40 people had died in a volcanic eruption. Later, no one could explain how that figure was compiled.

The Geneva office of the U.N. Coordinator for Disaster Relief eventually estimated the number dead at 1,746 people and said another 10,000 people were affected.

Most of the refugees evacuated by the army went to stay with relatives outside the disaster area. Several hundred were given temporary shelter in schools or hospitals.

By Tuesday, Aug. 26, relief supplies began reaching survivors in the remote area. A team of French scientists began work on identifying the lethal gases and an American pathologist was summoned to perform autopsies on some bodies.



Typical funerary stela from the cemetery at Khirbet ed-Dharieh (photo courtesy of IFPAO)



View into the excavated tomb, showing tiered burial chambers underground

Czechs dominate U.S. Open

Navratilova, Sukova in women's final; Lendl, Mecir in men's showdown

NEW YORK (AP) — Martina Navratilova survived five match points and a third-set tiebreak against 17-year-old Steffi Graf on Saturday to gain the women's final at the U.S. Open Tennis Championship for the fourth consecutive year.

Navratilova overcame three match points to beat the third-seeded West German 10-8 in the tiebreak and won 6-1, 6-7, 7-6.

Earlier, defending champion Ivan Lendl surged into the men's championship for the fifth consecutive year by defeating Sweden's Stefan Edberg 7-6, 6-2, 6-3.

The top-seeded Czechoslovak will face Miloslav Mecir, also of Czechoslovakia, who defeated Boris Becker of West Germany in a late afternoon match.

Navratilova, also the no. 1 seed, will face Czechoslovakia's seventh-seeded Helena Sukova for the women's title. Sukova upset six-time winner Chris Evert Lloyd 6-2, 6-4 on Friday to gain her berth in the final.

"You guys were saying this was going to be close, but this was ridiculous," Navratilova, seeking her third title in four years at this Grand Slam tournament, said after edging Graf in a match that began Friday but was interrupted by rain.

"She's a terrific player," Navratilova said of Graf. "I hope she doesn't get too much better or I'll quit. I feel lucky I got through this one. I lost a couple of third-set tiebreakers here before. You can't be pushed any more."

Lendl was awesome in his destruction of Edberg, the reigning Australian Open champion who was seeded fourth in this 128-man singles field. Only twice in the match did the Swede reach break point on Lendl's serve

you have won the set, but you have the edge mentally," Lendl said. "It's very hard to come back from one set or two sets down if you know the other player is in good shape and running and would rather die than lose."

Whether Edberg's spirit was broken by losing the first set is debatable. But Lendl's confidence rose dramatically, even showing in the way he walked around the court.

Lendl broke Edberg in the fourth game when the Swede double-faulted on break point as he rolled out to a 4-1 lead. After Edberg held from deuce, Lendl increased his lead to 5-2, then closed out the second set by breaking Edberg at 15.

The defending champion was in full gear, breaking Edberg's service in the fourth game as he again sprinted out to a 4-1 advantage, fought off a break point in the seventh game, then closed out the match at 15 in the ninth game, including his fifth ace of the afternoon.

"Maybe it was a little easier than I expected, but I always go into a match expecting the worse," Lendl said. "I think he got a little tired mentally after the first set. He played a good first set and lost it."

Edberg agreed. "I played a good first set," the Swede said, "and after that he was too good."

"The first set was very important. It was so close, I don't think I can play much or he can play much better. When he gets on top of you, he hardly loses."

Donkova sets world record

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Jordanka Donkova of Bulgaria set a new world record in the women's 100 metre hurdles at a Balkan track meet in Ljubljana Sunday. Donkova clocked 12.26 seconds, improving by three hundredths of a second her previous world record established at Cologne, West Germany, earlier this year.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Grand Prix changes discussed

MONZA, Italy (R) — International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) president Jean-Marie Balestre met Grand Prix engine manufacturers Sunday and finalised an agenda for the important rules meeting scheduled for Paris on October 3. Numerous proposals include a reduction in engine sizes, further limits on fuel, plus a revised system for practice. FISA's often stated aim is to dilute the enormous power of modern Formula One cars, thereby making racing safer. The wide ranging and well publicised recommendations to be discussed by the FISA executive include a further reduction in turbo-charged engine sizes from 1,500 to 1,000 cc and a total ban on the turbo units in favour of a return to orthodox engines with a maximum capacity of 3.5 litres.

Morocco, Tunisia play to draw

RABAT (R) — The Moroccan club Difaa El-Hassani and Hammam-Lif of Tunisia drew 0-0 in a first-leg quarter final match of the African Cup Winners Soccer Championship played in El Jadida Saturday. The return leg is due on September 21 in Hammam-Lif near Tunis.

Finland's Salonen wins rally

JYVASKYLA, Finland (R) — World champion Timo Salonen, driving a Peugeot, led a Finnish sweep of the top three places in the 1,000 Lakes Rally Sunday, according to unofficial results. Salonen, who clinched his world title with victory here last year, clocked three hours 32 minutes 45 seconds for the 48 special stages, 24 seconds faster than Peugeot team mate Juha Kankkunen, the current championship leader. The one-two finish maintained Finland's stranglehold on the event since it was first run eight years ago and secured Peugeot this season's Constructors' Championship.

Piquet wins Italian Grand Prix

MONZA, Italy (R) — Brazilian Nelson Piquet moved ominously closer to Williams team mate Nigel Mansell of Britain in the battle for the world driver's championship by beating him in a gripping duel for victory in Sunday's Italian Grand Prix.

Twice champion Piquet, a constant shadow as Mansell made much of the running, shot past his rival on the 38th lap of the 51-lap race and remained there until the

end. Mansell, stunned by Piquet's performance, maintained contact for a time but eased up towards the finish, unwilling to risk his car as he settled for second place and a crucial six championship points. With three rounds of the series remaining, Mansell has increased his overall advantage from two to a still slender five points but he readily admitted that Piquet seems poised to steal the honours. "It's always easier to come from behind," Mansell said. "Nelson is a past world champion. He must be favourite now."

Frenchman Alain Prost, reigning king of Formula One, and Brazil's Ayrton Senna, the two other drivers involved in the title chase, failed to finish. Prost was disqualified because he broke the rules by switching cars before the start while Senna's Lotus expired with transmission failure on the opening lap.

Argentin sprints to cycling victory

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo (R) — Moreno Argentin of Italy made the most of a daring gamble on Sunday, powering up the final hill and sprinting to victory in the professional road race of the World Cycling Championships.

Argentin, the bronze medallist last year, raised his left arm in triumph as he crossed the finish line about a bike length ahead of a surprising Charly Mottet of France after a 261.8 kilometre race on a relatively flat course in cold, damp and blustery conditions.

Mottet, a noted hill-climber who won the Tour de L'Avenir for young professionals in 1984, could not keep up with the 25-year-old Italian, who calmly looked over his shoulder and cruised to victory in his first race in the United States.

Italian Giuseppe Saronni, who won the 1982 World Professional Road Championship in England, recovered from a crash on the 14th lap of the 17-lap race to sweep out of the trailing pack and capture the bronze medal about 20 metres behind Mottet.

Argentin, rated a strong favourite by Tour de France champion Greg Lemond on a 15.2 kilometre course with just one tough hill, covered the course in six hours 32 minutes and 38 seconds.

Argentin was among the leaders over the last 66 kilometre of the most prestigious event of the world championships, which end Sunday.

He took off with 10 other riders — including the 23-year-old Mottet, twice Tour de France champion Laurent Fignon of France, Rolf Goetz of West Germany, Stefan Brykt of Sweden, and American Ron Kiefel — on the 13th lap after overtaking French pacesetter Charly Berard, who had led from the eighth lap.

Argentin said he thought he made his break too early, but Mottet, Brykt and Goetz helped him to maintain his leg-breaking pace.

"When I first started out I wasn't sure it would work. I wasn't sure those people were strong enough," he said. "But I decided to do it anyway."

The 11 riders built up a two-minute lead over the trailing pack, which included pre-race favourites Lemond and five-time Tour de France winner Bernard Hinault in his last major international race, after the 14th lap. The chase group made up a minute on the leaders with only two laps to go.

Moreno, Mottet and Goetz, who was the 1984 Olympic silver medallist in the track speciality of individual pursuit, pulled 18 seconds ahead of the trio of twice Tour de France champion Fignon, Brykt and Acacio da Silva of Portugal after the 16th lap and it quickly became a two-man race as Goetz faded.

"I knew I could beat Mottet, but I wasn't sure of Goetz, but on the second-to-last lap I was feeling

strong and knew I could win," said Argentin, who won the Liege-Bastogne-Liege Classic earlier this year for the second time in a row.

Lemond, the 1983 world champion who denied Hinault a record sixth Tour de France victory in July and finished second to his La Vie Claire teammate and mentor in the Coors Classic last month, finished seventh.

Hinault, who has said he will retire from international competition on November 9, was not among the top 20 finishers in a race started by 141 riders.

The 31-year-old French legend, known as "the badger" for his tenaciousness, said he held back, letting Fignon and Mottet do anything they wanted to do.

"I was working for them because they had the position," he said of his rivals on the French system U team.

Kiefel, who also dropped back on the final lap, said of the race: "The one-day race is somewhat of a lottery. You have to take a gamble. Argentin did, but he could have easily been caught."

The temperature was about 13 degrees Centigrade and threatening dark clouds hovered low above the course, which ranges in elevation from about 2,000 metres to 2,200 metres.

Argentin, who finished seventh in the Coors Classic, said that race helped him. "The best way to get used to the altitude is to stay for a while and race a tough race like the Coors," he said.

Spinks wins 'unification' fight

LAS VEGAS, Nev (R) — Undefeated heavyweights Michael Spinks and Mike Tyson moved along smoothly toward a possible unification of the world championship Saturday night by stopping overmatched opponents inside the distance.

Spinks, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight champion, advanced to the so-called final of the unification series when the referee stopped his title defence against European champion Steffen Tangstad of Norway in the fourth round.

Under the master plan for unifying the title, Spinks by winning Saturday night earned a fight against the winner of a World

Boxing Association-World Boxing Council unification bout. Tyson destroyed former WBC cruiserweight champion Alfonso Ratliff of the U.S. inside two rounds to earn a shot at WBC heavyweight champion Trevor Berbick of Canada in November.

Spinks knocked down Tangstad, an eight-to-one underdog, three times before referee Richard Steele halted the bout with 58 seconds gone in the fourth of 15 scheduled rounds.

The 27-year-old Tangstad was hoping to become the first European to win a world heavyweight title since Ingemar Johansson of Sweden did it in 1959. He didn't come close. Early in the fourth, the

30-year-old Spinks, who weighed 201 pounds (91.2 kg), dropped Tangstad, who weighed 214-3/4 pounds (97.4 kg), with a right to the head. Tangstad struggled to his feet, but he was groggy and his legs were gone.

Moments later, Spinks flattened Tangstad with a left hook to the head. The game but outclassed Norwegian got up again, but referee Richard Steele saved him from any more punishment.

Spinks had already sent Tangstad down in the third round. A left hook to the head jarred Tangstad early in the round and less than a minute later he took three lefts to the jaw and a short right to the temple that put him down on one knee.

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Greece to continue austerity measures

SALONICA, Greece (AP) — Premier Andreas Papandreu on Saturday said austerity measures would continue regardless of political cost to stabilize Greece's ailing economy.

Speaking on the opening day of the 51st Salonica international trade fair held annually in this northern city, Mr. Papandreu claimed that a tough austerity policy implemented by his Socialist government last October "has begun to bear fruit."

"There has been significant progress in the budgetary sector. The deficit in the general state budget is decreasing. There has been clear and substantial progress towards reducing inflation," Mr. Papandreu said.

He added that the government's objective of reducing inflation this year to 16 per cent from 25 per cent in 1985 was being met.

Mr. Papandreu said that Greece's current accounts deficit was 38 per cent lower over the first seven months and predicted that a 1986 target figure of \$1.7 billion was attainable.

Greece's current accounts deficit hit a record high last year, totalling \$3.29 billion.

The austerity programme aimed at cutting the deficit, also included a 15 per cent devaluation of the drachma, import restrictions and a virtual two-year wage-freeze.

"I do not maintain that our

economic problems have been beaten. Thus, we will continue with our stabilisation policy during 1987. The government is determined to ignore... fears for its popularity," Mr. Papandreu said.

An undesirable side-effect of the austerity programme, Mr. Papandreu admitted, is a further increase in the rate of unemployment. According to government figures, 8.5 per cent of Greece's 3.7 million workforce is currently unemployed.

Mr. Papandreu said the government would take steps to modernise the country's industries and institute measures to improve the economy's operation in an

effort to lure private investment.

"We need a much more flexible and effective public administration with a new look. We must continue planning to step up efforts to create a modern state," Mr. Papandreu said.

Mr. Papandreu lashed out at the "unsatisfactory response" of the private business sector to government attempts aimed at encouraging its development.

"The private sector cannot base itself, at least not exclusively, on bank lending. It must also risk its own capital," Mr. Papandreu said, adding that "we are doing our utmost to encourage new entrepreneurial forces with modern attitudes."

GATT analysts warn of decline in world commerce in the long run

GENEVA (Agencies) — World merchandise trade grew in volume by an estimated three per cent last year and should expand even more rapidly in 1986, but current trade policies invite a long-term economic decline, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said Monday.

The GATT secretariat's annual review of world commerce forecast a 3.5 per cent rise in trade volume this year.

But it warned against a continued widening of government measures against free trade, particularly subsidies, quotas and market sharing agreements. A further trend toward such restrictions "would cripple efforts to deal with such pressing problems as servicing debts, creating jobs and promoting economic growth."

The fresh appeal from GATT analysts came as ministers from the 92 member nations prepared to meet next week in Uruguay to try to launch a new round of world trade liberalisation talks.

GATT is the world's main free-trade treaty and organisation.

In value terms, goods trade grew one per cent in 1985, less than the volume expansion because of the strong dollar. The study predicted an eight per cent rise this year due to the fall of the dollar.

Last year's volume figure was below the 9.5 per cent expansion in 1984, a year of strong economic recovery. Lagging growth in 1985 was a "key factor" in crimping trade expansion, the study said.

Merchandise trade last year was buoyant only in manufactured products, growing by six per cent, it said. Sharp declines were registered in the value of food, fuel and non-ferrous metals exports.

Most developing countries showed "particularly disappointing" performances as

Agriculture and textiles will be priority areas in a new trade round, he said.

Chief economist Richard Blackhurst said the trend away from the GATT principle of equal treatment for all trading partners is more and more grim.

He added: "It's the direction of trade policy that is worrying, not the current situation."

Giants agree on aim, differ on approach

Meanwhile, the Western world's four biggest trading powers said Saturday they agreed on the need to include agriculture and service industries in imminent global trade talks but differed on how these issues should be approached.

The conclusions followed two days of talks by top trade officials of the European Community (EC), the United States, Canada and Japan which ended Saturday at Sintra, west of Lisbon.

Officials said progress was made in seeking common ground before the Uruguay meeting.

"This meeting has shown there is a very large consensus on objectives and substance," EC Commissioner Willy De Clercq said after the talks between the four which together account for more than 40 per cent of world trade.

"But we obviously have different perceptions on a few problems," he told a news conference in Lisbon.

He said the 12-nation European Community fully agreed on the need to discuss the sensitive issue of agricultural trade but was unhappy over the stance of the United States and others.

Washington and more than 40 other nations have backed a draft negotiating text which proposes a possible phased reduction in farm export subsidies, the backbone of EC farm policy.

"We believe it is imperative to have a new GATT round," U.S. trade representative, Mr. Clayton Yeutter, said.

Mr. De Clercq said the draft farm text was not sufficiently balanced. "We want to discuss agriculture in global terms, including all measures that have any impact on agricultural trade," he said.

Canadian Trade Minister Pat Carney said that although Canada was, like many other agricultural producers, caught in an export subsidy war between the Community and the U.S. that was squeezing world markets, it accepted the proposed text.

She pointed out that other major farm producers of a 14-nation group which recently met in Cairns, Australia, wanted stronger provisions against the use of farm export subsidies.

Mr. De Clercq and Mr. Yeutter stressed the need to include the discussion of sophisticated service industries such as transport, banking and insurance in any new GATT round stemming from the Sept. 15 talks at Punta Del Este, Uruguay.

This move is strongly opposed by a group of some 10 nations including Brazil and India, whose opposition Mr. Yeutter described as "irrational."

Mr. De Clercq said the most important thing was to tackle the problem in such a way to ensure that services were discussed at the Punta Del Este meeting and were eventually included in GATT.

Trade Minister Hajime Tamura who represented Japan at the Sintra talks told the news conference Tokyo was ready to work to adapt its economic structure more to world trade by expanding domestic demand and increasing imports.

The United States and European Community have often accused Japan of maintaining unacceptable protectionist barriers to their exports.

Britain may soon plunge into big deficit

LONDON (R) — Low prices for its North Sea oil may soon plunge Britain's balance of payments account into the red after six years of surplus, economic forecasters say.

Among London-based economists polled on British prospects, at a time when the government was making a record \$4 billion borrowing in the capital markets, most predicted a current account deficit for 1987.

A minority thought the payments position was deteriorating so rapidly that a £942 million (\$1.1 billion) current account surplus in the first half of this year would be more than wiped out by the end.

The performance of the

economy, after a period when oil earnings masked the effect of a decline in manufacturing, will be at issue in an election that Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government has to call by mid-1988.

In a report released last month the Institute for Economic and Social Research, an independent think-tank, said: "It seems reasonably certain that, following six years of substantial surplus on the current account when the surplus on oil trade was mounting, the balance of payments will be transformed by the fall in oil revenues."

Stockbrokers Phillips and Drew forecast a 1986 current account surplus of £500 million (\$750

million) but a deficit of £2.5 billion (\$3.75 billion) in 1987.

While oil prices are down from nearly \$40 a barrel in 1981 to just under \$15 now, British oil output has also probably peaked at about 2.5 million barrels daily, market experts say, with a slow decline likely in coming years.

Financial analysts told Reuters that the government's move this week to bolster official reserves by borrowing from the capital markets, through a record bond issue of \$4 billion, suggested that it felt it might need money to intervene to support the pound.

They said it underlined a view that the government was no longer willing to sanction a politically-unpopular rise in short-term interest rates to buoy sterling but would instead defend it through market intervention.

Mr. Paul Chertkow, a director of Hong Kong Bank Ltd, said: "There is so much uncertainty about the whole direction of economic policy the government will be hard pressed to stave off a currency crisis between now and the next election."

Sterling's depreciation against such European currencies as the mark should help non-oil exports to grow, particularly if there is a general upturn in world trade, but weaker sterling could also inflate import values.

A big surplus remains on "invisible" earnings — tourism, shipping and financial services and items such as remittances — of £1.96 billion (\$2.94 billion) in the second quarter of 1986.

But tourism was hit by the weak dollar and American worries about travel to Europe.

W. German economy rebounds

BONN (R) — The West German economy, strongest in Western Europe, has rebounded after a slow start to this year now largely blamed on a severe winter, figures showed.

The Federal Statistics Office said gross national product (GNP), the widest measure of economic output, was up by two per cent in April-June on the first quarter of the year. Compared with the same period of 1985, the economy expanded by 3.3 per cent.

The figures are ammunition for the government to counter criticism mainly in the United States that West Germany was not doing enough to help fire up faltering global economic activity.

GNP contracted in the first three months of this year, raising fears that, while West Germany had a booming trade surplus and plunging inflation, it might be entering recession.

The United States urged measures to stoke up demand. But West German officials countered that the economy was just taking a "pause for breath" after being hit by unusually bad weather.

It was also adapting to new external circumstances, such as a sharply lower dollar and cheap oil, while a transition to growth based on domestic demand had not passed off smoothly.

But even the first quarter figures were less disappointing than the government had

anticipated. The statistics office revised the quarterly contraction of the economy to 1/2 per cent from a one per cent fall reported in June.

Second quarter data revealed that a strong boost to domestic demand which the government had said would result from a drop in the cost of living was now in full swing.

The statistics office said private consumption rose by 4.8 per cent against the same period last year, while investment in capital goods was up a strong 10.8 per cent.

Even the construction branch, long the weakest sector of the economy, had expanded by 1.9 per cent on the year, compared with a 0.2 per cent decline in the first three months of 1986.

The United States, urging West Germany to cut interest rates, cited the trade surplus, a record high 10.9 billion marks (\$5.4 billion) in July, as a sign the country could do more to diminish imbalances.

But the statistics office said West Germany's import prices had fallen chiefly because of the lower dollar and cheaper oil.

Taking price changes into account, imports had risen by 8.1 per cent in the second quarter from the same period last year while exports rose only 2.0 per cent.

The government says this stronger real rise in imports is an indication of West Germany's contribution to world growth.

Chinese leader deplors high costs for investors

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese leader, Mr. Deng Xiaoping, has said high rents and other expenses are making it too hard for foreign investors to make profits in China, the China Daily reported Saturday.

"We cannot ask foreign investors to come and then not let them make money. But high rent and other expenses are making profits difficult for them. This issue must be addressed," the paper quoted Mr. Deng as telling a group of Japanese investors.

Mr. Deng said China's policy of opening to the outside world and reforming the domestic economy was successful, but some malpractices had come to light which could have been anticipated.

The official media regularly highlights cases of swindling and foreign businessmen often complain about over-charging and last-minute changes in contracts

involving cost increases.

Mr. Deng said there was a lack of knowledge among some officials which led to a lack of courage. Unless solved, such problems would prevent an acceleration in China's economic development, he said.

Meanwhile the industrial city of Chungking has ordered all state-owned enterprises to adopt a manager-responsibility system that reduces party control, the Xinhua News Agency said Saturday.

City authorities reached the decision Friday in order to give managers decision-making powers that could make their factories more efficient.

Under the new system, managers who can earn up to twice the average worker's salary, will be empowered to make major decisions about production and key personnel.

Demand for oil likely to rise 4.5 % in West

PARIS (R) — Oil consumption in Western industrialised countries is likely to rise by between 3.5 and 4.5 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year over the same period of 1985, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said.

In a monthly oil market report, the IEA also said that total 1986 oil consumption in the 24 countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) would be about three per cent higher than in 1985, up to 35 million barrels a day (b/d) from 33.9 million b/d.

The IEA groups 21 countries that seek to coordinate energy supply and demand policies.

Liberia cuts shipping fees

NEW YORK (R) — Liberia is cutting registration fees for vessels flying under its flag in an effort to help struggling shipowners. Liberian Finance Minister Robert Tubman said here last week.

Mr. Tubman, who is visiting New York, said the cuts, already approved by the Liberian legislature, will be 10 cents a ton for vessels under 80,000 net registered tonnes and 12 cents a tonne for vessels above that weight.

An additional reduction of five cents a tonne has been granted for vessels operating under the Liberian flag for five of the last 10 years.

Liberia faces increasing competition for registration fees from other so-called "open registry" countries. The tiny South Pacific island Vanuatu (the former New Hebrides), for example, has replaced Liberia as the registration bargain basement and now has a fleet of over 100 ships.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, SEPT. 8, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning finds some frustrations in getting started. Later this block is removed and you carry out your organized plans with more energy than usual.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Don't try to rush through any business affairs. Give more attention to your mate in the evening.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) If you are forceful with an associate you will get nowhere. A late start in business works out well later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Your creative ideas are late in coming today. Get future entertainments arranged nicely today.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You want to take a chance of some sort and it may turn out to your liking if done this morning.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Exercise patience at home. You can invite guests in tonight. Treat them charmingly and get good results.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Take care in motion during the daytime. You can easily take short trips and get fine results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Financial affairs are first on the agenda today. Be careful before signing up for any long-term commitments.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You awake with a desire to do something of a very personal nature, but think it over first.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Forget that worry this morning, otherwise you will ruin your day. Ignore a mate's irritability.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Try to help a friend who is in trouble and later enjoy the company of other good pals.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Don't get bogged down by outside tasks that are a bore. Be alert to opportunities from bigwigs.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study some new activity you have in mind before you put it in operation. A newcomer can be of help.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be able to plan and organize the future most intelligently. Adulthood should bring great success, particularly in such fields as investigation, research and the like. Your child may not like school at first, but he, or she, will excel in special subjects.

THE Daily Crossword

by Harold B. Counts

1 Across: 1. Cheese 2. Range 3. 100 ft. 4. Leave out 5. Theme 6. Birdmark 7. Choice 8. Writer Louis 9. Unique thing 10. Hepburn film 11. Grape refuse 12. Map for payment 13. Table linen 14. Authors 15. Love in 16. Nucleus 17. Establish 18. Mame — 19. Le —, Fr. 20. Outrigger 21. Fetus god 22. Catch-all abbr. 23. Synthetic gem material 24. Flavoring 25. Girl's best friend 26. Stock 27. Pub order 28. Over 29. Hardyman 30. Drug plant 31. — France 32. Loony bird 33. 200 ft. 34. Agree (with) 35. Sledgehammer 36. Chin, word part 37. 62 38. Beginning 39. Down: 1. House 2. Eastern 3. L. brand 4. 100 ft. 5. Aerial 6. One and — 7. Sage 8. Arch breast

9 Climb as 10 Quantity 11 Crash 12 Robert — 13 Son bird 14 Passenger 15 Type metal piece 16 Honored 17 Agree (with) 18 Violins 19 Stouten 20 Drag over 21 — (speak) 22 Tick 23 Fit of 24 Yearling 25 Bird like a bird 26 Comic Strip 27 Vandalism 28 Tropical 29 Water catch 30 Outpost 31 Military knife 32 Herb, type 33 Function in a way 34 Curly 35 Toy's mother 36 Bird of peace 37 Singer Adams 38 Reitor's sign

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ABRIDGED PERSO LINDO
FLYER BLVD NEED
ATLANTIC PRIZE GAME
VOL BIRD BARRATOR
ALLEGRIE FORTITUDE
CHIEF HONOR NIA
LOA FERRARIDE GUIL
OWN NEON SEAT
VERMILION ASIP
GERMIA HIAA RHO
EGGAL FORTIADAPT
ERSE TRIT TELL
QUER SIAKE VANE

Peanuts

ME? MY TURN? YES, MAAM

MY NAME IS CHARLES BROWN... MY DAD IS A BARBER... I GUESS MY FAVORITE HOBBIES ARE BASEBALL AND READING

I THOUGHT I DID PRETTY GOOD... WHY DID EVERYONE LAUGH?

YOU WALKED OUT THE DOOR, AND GAVE YOUR SPEECH IN THE HALLWAY!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

YOU'RE PLAYING 18 HOLES WITH HARRY GIBBY? HE'S THE GOLF PRO!

OKAY, JEFF, GIVE IT ALL YOU'VE GOT! REMEMBER... THE SWING'S THE THING!

SOCK!

ALL RIGHT! NOW I'LL TAKE MY PRACTICE SHOT, THEN WE'LL START THE GAME!

Andy Capp

HOW'S HE GETTING ON WITH THE NEW BARMAID, FLOP?

DON'T MENTION THAT WOMAN TO ME, MOTHER—

—WHISPER WHISPER—WHISPER WHISPER—

NOBODY'S PERFECT... ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT PAIR START GOSSIPING

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"Italian cooking is my specialty! I made you a garlic milkshake!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SUMIN

COSUR

GOYAVE

RUPPLE

Answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MILKY GAVEL SONATA TIMING

Answer: He had the self-control to give up drinking and smoking but not the self-control to give up the TALKING ABOUT IT

